2023-24 Mainstage Season

Ride the CYCLONE: THE MUSICAL

WEDDING BAND
A LOVE/HATE STORY IN BLACK AND WHITE
BY ALICE CHILDRESS

SHE LOVES ME

CRIMINAL GENIUS
a play by George F. Walker
CAST

Ocean O'Connell Rosenberg  Mischa Bachinski
Malia Jones  Seth Worthington

Noel Gruber  Karnak  Ricky Potts
Hayden Hotchkiss  James Medwedeff  Lucas Reilly

Jane Doe  Constance Blackwood  Sydney Ryan

Abby Ohlau

Artistic Staff

Director & Choreographer ........................................ Darryl Clark
Music Director .......................................................... Angela Shultz
Scenic Designer ......................................................... David Goldstein
Costume Designer ..................................................... Aleka Fischer
Lighting Designer ....................................................... Jaemin Park
Technical Director .................................................... Lenny Lively

Production Staff

Production Manager .................................................... Thomas Fagerholm
Scenic Design Supervisor ........................................... M.K. Hughes
Props Master ............................................................. Rebeccca Frye
Scenic Painters .......................................................... Rebeccca Frye, Grace Rueter
Carpenters ................................................................. Lenny Lively, Charlie Lockridge, Uriel Achilleus, 218 A Class
Costume Design Supervisor ....................................... Wendi Zea
Costume Shop Manager ............................................. Jane Pivovarnik
Stitchers ................................................................. Van Leonard, Bizi Cutherell, Ben Selsor, Lydia Holterman, Arianna Foreman, Olivia Manning, 218C Class
Electrician ............................................................... Mitchell Brandon
Follow Spot Coordinator ............................................ Mitchell Brandon
Spotlight Operators ................................................... Ty Lunn, Amelia Baron
Stage Management Supervisor .................................. Matthew C. Williams
Production Stage Manager ........................................ Allison Weaver
Assistant Stage Manager ............................................. Shane Thompson

Running Crew

Deck Crew ............................................................... Blake Zappa
Fly Rail Operators ................................................... Miles A. Bengtson, J'kuion West
Light Board Operator ............................................... Kaitlyn Rose
Sound Board Operator .............................................. Van Leonard
Mic Tech ................................................................. Lyndsey Bergman
Wardrobe Crew ....................................................... Amy Rainey, Arianna E. Foreman

School of Theater and Dance Administration

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Business Manager ................................................... Scott Elliott
Office Manager ......................................................... Joshua Johnson
Marketing .............................................................. Mitchell Brandon, Saina Seraj
Office Assistant ........................................................ J'kuion West
House Manager ....................................................... M Kamara
Musical Numbers

Dream of Life ......................................................... Jane Doe
Uranium .............................................................. Ensemble
Sailing Through Space ........................................... Ensemble
The Other Side ...................................................... Jane & Ensemble
What the World Needs ........................................ Ocean & Ensemble
Noel's Lamen/That Fucked-up Girl ......................... Noel & Ensemble
Every Story's Got A Lesson .................................... Ocean & Ensemble
This Song Is Awesome .......................................... Mischa & Ensemble
Talia ................................................................. Mischa & Ensemble
Space Age Bachelor Man ..................................... Ricky & Ensemble
The Ballad Of Jane Doe ......................................... Jane Doe & Ensemble
The New Birthday Song ........................................ Ensemble
Jawbreaker/Sugarcloud ......................................... Constance & Ensemble
Sailing Through Space Reprise ............................... Ensemble
It's Just a Ride ...................................................... Ensemble

Director’s Note

In 2020, our planet went through a change when all of us suffered through a global pandemic. COVID took so many lives and it felt it was seeking to end so many professional endeavors. Including—mine. For a period of over a year, the only way the performing arts was thriving was by way of the Internet. Youn performers were sharing songs and whole shows via Zoom and YouTube, choreographers were creating ‘exquisite corpse’ dances (I was in one—I know!) and as far as films was concerned? It was ‘Have camera, will travel!’

This is the case with our 2023-24 Mainstage season opener RIDE THE CYCLONE. This musical is The Show That Could. The infectiousness of the music and lyrics have young lovers of musical theatre in their thrall. The storyline is also equally intriguing to them. I cannot think of a piece of entertainment that has done to energize musical theatre as much as this show has—and that includes Glee, the live versions of animated Disney musicals and a little show about a guy that wrote The Federalist Papers.

Working on this production with a cast of enthusiastic and talented students in our program, some hard-working individuals on the production team and special guests from School of Media Arts is an experience that I will never forget.

I will now step aside as director-choreographer and wish, oh so humbly, that each of you enjoys the effort we made to bring this show to life on the McLeod stage.

Please enjoy RIDE THE CYCLONE!
Cast Bios

Hayden is so excited to be in his 4th show with the SIU School of Theater and Dance as a junior in the BFA Musical Theater program! You may have recently seen him in McLeod Summer Playhouse’s *Bridges of Madison County* as Michael or Mercutio in SIU’s *Romeo & Juliet*. Fun fact about Hayden: he has died in every single production he has been a part of at SIU. He hopes you enjoy the ride! Bonsoir! Insta: @hay926

Lia Jones has been an excited undergrad at SIU since 2021! You may have seen her in Romeo and Juliet as Lady Cap or In Mousetrap as Ms. Boyle! Lia also took to the stage in the Sondheim tribute with a rendition of Being Alive. Lia also graced the stage this summer as Marian in McLeod Summer Playhouse’s “Bridges Of Madison County” Lia comes to you now as Ocean in SIU’s Ride the Cyclone! She hopes all of you enjoy show!

James Medwedeff is a senior BFA in theater at SIU. Normally on crew, last semester he made his acting debut on the McCloud as Lord Capulet in Romeo and Juliet. In Ride the Cyclone he plays the Zoltar inspired Karnak, and he will also be in Wedding Band later the semester. He is a lover of history and coin collecting.

Abby Ohlau is a Junior in the BFA Musical Theater department. You may have recently seen her in Southern Illinois Music Festivals production of La Rondine. She has also recently been in the Sondheim Tribute Review here at SIU, and also portrayed Marmee March in Little Women The Musical last year. Ride the Cyclone is one of her favorite musicals, and she is so excited to be a part of this wonderful cast. Enjoy the show and don’t forget to Ride the Cyclone!

Lucas Reilly is a senior BFA. This is his fourth musical here in the McLeod, and he’s especially excited to be a part of the cast of ‘Ride the Cyclone!’ Many of you may have seen him in Tuck Everlasting, or in Lucky Stiff as Luigi Gaudi. He was also delighted to perform in Godspell with the McLeod Summer Playhouse as Jeffery! He cooks a lot in his free time, so feel free to stop by his home address for a snack. Feel free! He really hopes you enjoy the show!

Sydney Ryan is a Junior BFA in musical theatre here at SIU! She is thrilled to be a part of her third musical here. She fell in love with Ride the Cyclone and is so excited to be a part of it! You may have recently seen her in the Sondheim Tribute Revue last semester on the Mcleod stage. She was also seen in SIU’s Romeo and Juliet last year. This summer, she ran microphones for Footloose the musical and was a mic tech for Bridges of Madison County at Mcleod Summer Playhouse. She really
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