

EAST^{OF THE}
SUN



WEST
OF THE MOON

Adapted from the Norwegian folktale by awardwinning playwright **TINA HOWE**



OCT.

1, 2, 3 - 7:30 PM

3 & 4 - 2:00 PM

Livestreamed from the
Clifford E. White Theater

Directed by Kathleen M. McGeever

JOIN US AS WE VENTURE INTO THE UNKNOWN

A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Join us this season as we experiment with how we tell stories, and how you, our audience, experience them. The COVID 19 Pandemic has upended performing arts. It is especially challenging for Theatre educators because we are tasked with not only dealing with the pandemic, but also examining the pedagogy of our practice. We must reach beyond our own knowledge base and explore new ways of teaching theatre and telling stories that still engage our hands-on, experiential practice - the hallmark of Theatre.

Each of our four mainstage productions this year will venture, quite literally, into the unknown. It is funny that we chose this theme for the 2020-2021 season long before the pandemic was even an inkling of a crisis. However, here we are, venturing into digital delivery of an art that demands a live element. In our long discussions over the months since March, the faculty and staff examined what we do as theatre artists and how we can continue to not only tell stories in as live a format as we can imagine, but how we can teach an interactive, hands-on, experiential discipline.

What you will see this year will be an evolution as we learn alongside of our students. We are all learners during this new reality in which discovery will change our field forever. It is both an exciting time and a terrifying time, but we began this year making a promise to our students, our patrons and ourselves that we will continue to tell important stories through the artistry of theatre. If we have learned one thing since March 2020 it is that humanity needs theatre, truly all the arts more than ever as we find our way in these troubling times.

In our 2020 COVID Staging of *East of the Sun and West of the Moon*, we have embraced a storybook, translating the phenomenal magic into the land of puppets. What you will see is a mixing of ancient shadow puppet theatre with live actors in an attempt to bring this ageless story to light in a way that serves the story and the safety of our students, faculty, staff and patrons.

What you will feel is a new sort of magic as puppets come to life alongside masked human characters. It reminds me of my favorite children's stories such as *The Muppets* or *Kukla Fran and Ollie*. With shadow scenery, puppets, live-actors, and live streaming, this will be a first for NAU Theatre. We hope you enjoy venturing into the unknown with us!

East of the Sun and West of the Moon

By Tina Howe

Creative Team

DIRECTOR

COSTUME DESIGNER

LIGHTING/ MEDIA AND SOUND DESIGNER

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER

SCENIC DESIGNER

VOICE/SPEECH & PHYSICAL DRAMATURGY

MUSIC DIRECTION

KATHLEEN M. MCGEEVER

GABBY LUX^{^*}+

BEN ALEXANDER

GRACE KENNEDY

KATE ELLIS

REBECCA WHITEHURST

SHAYNE SMITH

Cast

TOVE

GJERD/QUEEN MOTHER

OLAF/THIRD HAG/WEST WIND

GUNNHILD/TROLL PRINCESS

TRUD/DURT

KNUT/SOUTH WIND/RING BEARER

EINAR/SECOND HAG/

NORTH WIND/PHOTOGRAPHER

FROY/FIRST HAG

FRID/EAST WIND

BEAR/PRINCE/ SERVANTS

PUPPETEERS

KELSEY BROWN*

GALEN COBURN-AMADIO^{^*}

ALEXANDER FURASH

KIKI LEMON

CARLY DURRER^{^*}

KANE COURTNEY

BRADLEY UPHOLD

IAN BURNETT

ALEXIS GIBBS[^]

CALEB ELLIS

ELLA NASH

BRETT PUPPILO

LAUREN SCHERER

Design Mentors

COSTUME DESIGN: JENNIFER PETERSON

Production Team

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

STAGE MANAGER

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

PROPERTIES MANAGER

CUTTER/DRAPER

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER

CHAIR AND EVENTS PROMOTION

PROGRAM DESIGN

EP INTERN

POSTER DESIGN

MARK DELANCEY

LEXXII RAMIREZ

BRITTANY LANGER

EMILY RALSTON

JANET AYALA^

NANCY PARR

KATHLEEN M. MCGEEVER

KELSEY BROWN*

CLAIRE WOODARD +

VISUAL DESIGN LAB

Special Thanks

Greg Hales and Jump Start Video

Chris Boyer, Dean of CAL

Kareli Vanessa Cota, CTO

NAU students, staff and faculty

The Department of Theatre would also like to recognize Bill and Jana Harper for their generous Endowment for production. Please consider giving to this important fund: The Harper Family Endowment

LX Crew

Crew: Lexi Connell, James Wallis*+, Sydnee Messerschmidt, Arrajanee Rivera, Chaiah Durst, Noah Hascall, Clifford Smith, Kevin Cushman, and Triumph Edwards

Costume Crew

Costume Crew Head: Chris Mort

Crew: Camryn McMahon*, Skylar Fast, Savannah Lawson, Roxy Barraza, JD Eckman, Gemma Haraksin, Teagen Anderson, Hayden Eckhaus, and Kailyn Woodie

Scenic Crew

Scenic Crew Head: Katelynn Garcia

Crew: Ahren Boender, Hayley Diaz, Ericka Judge, Lucas Kostiw, Julia Bassett, Jaidyn Reed, and Rebekah Tindall

Events Promotions

Event Promotion Asst: Kelsey Brown*

Team: Alexis Gibbs, Mary Ryan*, Colette Webb, and Claire Woodard+

House Management

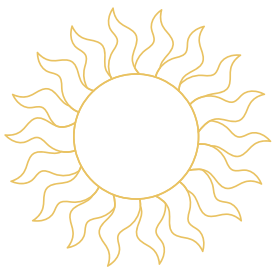
House Manager: Mary Ryan*

Director's Note

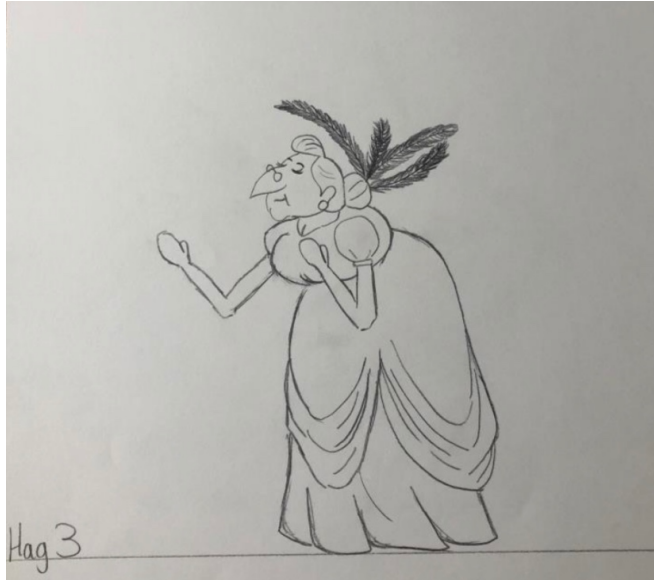
East of the Sun and West of the Moon harkens back to the ancient Greek tale of Eros and Psyche which tells a story of a beautiful maiden forced to marry a monster—only to lose him when she tries to discover his real identity. The bewitching tale traveled far and wide morphing into a variety of familiar and unfamiliar stories including “Beauty and the Beast,” “Sleeping Beauty,” “The Singing, Springing Lark,” “The Iron Stove,” “The Enchanted Pig,” “The Feather of Finist the Falcon,” and “The Brown Bear of Norway.” *East of the Sun, West of the Moon* was first collected from the oral traditions of Norway and published in 1845.

What is clear in the lesser known tales from Russia to Ireland, is that our protagonist, unlike *Sleeping Beauty* where she sleeps awaiting her true Prince, Tove is the active hero. This tale then, while clearly a coming of age story and a quest for love, is a heroic tale and epic journey where our young protagonist takes matters into her own hands and saves the day! Young folks of all ages need this story to affirm their strength, passion, and resilience. This message drew me to the story both as a child and as a director. As a child, I read the book repeatedly, because very few young girls were the heroes of the story. In *Tove*, I had a hero of my own, a strong, sassy, adventurous and empathetic young woman who could conquer even the greatest adversity. I always return to the ending of this tale, which I won't divulge; but, this fantastic and epic journey reminds us that love transcends even the most painful ordeal, that empathy is cherished, and a heart that swells with kindness is to be aspired. This is the *Tove* of our story – the recipient of our most ardent desire that she overcome adversity and so then, empower goodness to prevail.

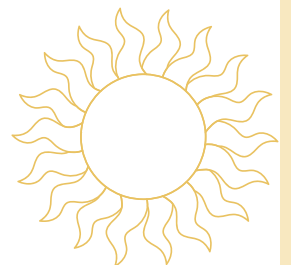
In this unique and troubling time – we all need this tale.



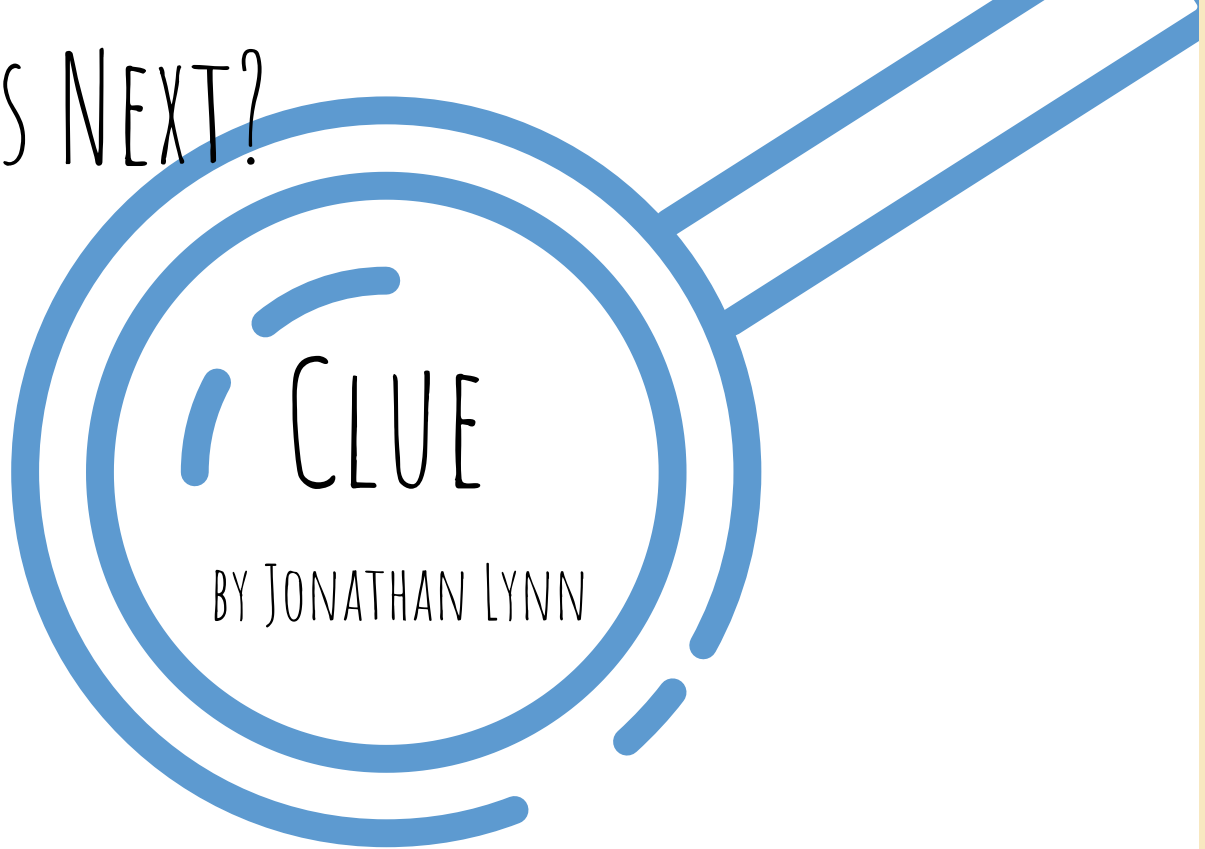
The Process



Hag 3



WHAT'S NEXT?



Join the Butler, Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock and Colonel Mustard as they race to find the killer while the body count stacks up. Clue the madcap comedy whodunit will keep you on your toes!

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