

Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

THE NIGHT WITCHES

BY: RACHEL BUBLITZ



DIRECTED BY: ZOE GILBERT





Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

PRESENTS

The Night Witches

Written by Rachel Bublitz

Stage Manager

Drea Brown*

Director

Zoe Gilbert

House Manager

Riley Will

Scenic Designer

Alex Dubowski*

Sound Designer

Tyler Obermiller

Lighting Designer

Rem Ferguson

Costume Designer

Lila Duvendack*

Hair & Make-Up Designer

Blythe Cheney

Logo Designer

Paige Tuckerman*

Property Designers

Lydia Bolzman &
Kyle Smith

Composer:

Eric Durette*

Technical Liaisons

Alex Dubowski* &
Drea Brown*

Production Manager

Lela Murray

Fight Coordinator

Drea Brown*

Publicity Coordinator

Alex Kulmacz

*Denotes an SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

Content Warning: *The Night Witches* includes the use of haze, moving lights, loud explosions and gunfire

Saginaw Valley State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. It encourages diversity and inclusion and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all of its programs and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of persons connected with the University.

Saginaw Valley State University is committed to providing work and learning opportunities without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, height, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, weight, or on any other basis protected by state, federal, or other applicable law, and to achieving its objectives in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination.



Cast

Vera	Elliott Bell
Serafima	Dana Samalik*
Tatyana	Scout McCulloch*
Nina	Emily McGlynn
Irina	Veronica Vozniak
Polina	Isabel Losa*
Zoya	Paige Tuckerman*
Raisa	Maddie Casper
Alexandra	Haley Huggett
Valentina	Abby Yearta
Marta	Abigail Rowe

Production Team

Director	Zoe Gilbert
Scenic Designer	Alex Dubowski*
Lighting Designer	Rem Ferguson
Sound Designer	Tyler Obermiller
Composer	Eric Durette*
Property Designers	Lydia Bolzman Kyle Smith
Costume Designer	Lila Duvendack*
Makeup & Hair Designer	Blythe Cheney
Stage Manager	Drea Brown*
House Manager	Riley Will
Production Manager	Lela Murray
Technical Liaisons	Alex Dubowski* Drea Brown*
Publicity Coordinator	Alex Kulmacz
Fight Coordinator	Drea Brown*

Production Staff

Scene Shop Supervisor

Jerry Dennis

Costume Shop Supervisor

Courtney A. Kelly

Scene Shop Assistant

Alex Dubowski*

Assistant Director

Emma Koch

Assistant Stage Manager

Lily Oddo*

Assistant Lighting Designer

Kalinah Dunn

Assistant Costume Designer

Zoe Kikstra

Assistant Hair & Makeup Designer

Becca Dubs

Lead Electrician

Alex Dubowski*

Dept. of Theatre Audio Manager

Eric Durette*

Logo Designer

Paige Tuckerman*

Publicity Managers

Courtney A. Kelly

Lela Murray

Administrative Secretary

Kelly Helmreich

Dept. of Theatre Office Worker

Paige Tuckerman*

Dept. of Theatre Publicity Coordinator

Dave Rzeszutek

Mentor to Student Designers and Crew

Peggy Mead-Finizio

Mentor to Student Director and Theatre Management

Tommy Wedge

Production Crew

Sound Board Operator

Tyler Obermiller

Light Board Operators

Alex Dubowski*

Rem Ferguson

Costume Crew

Zoe Kikstra

Hair & Makeup Crew

Fara Bommarito

Electricians

Drea Brown*

Nathan Bonus

Videography

Lydia Bolzman

Photography

AJ King

Abbey Kuhns

Caleb Hopper

A Note from the Director

Do women have to sacrifice their femininity in order to be respected in a male dominated field?

I have posed this question to *The Night Witches* team and to myself as I've stepped into the role of student director. I feel that we all, but especially women, can recognize the struggles of these characters. These women not only served in a world built by and for men but also strived for and achieved excellence within that environment. The night bombers of the 588th regiment turned a death sentence of a posting into a moment of excellence in aviation history. They wore a nickname coined by the Nazis to diminish their impact as a title of honor, clothed in hand-me-down men's uniforms and sent into flight without parachutes.

In an interview for the original production, Rachel Bublitz discusses how she weaved true stories of women who served in the 588th into *The Night Witches*. They include a girl who curls her hair in case she encounters a Russian soldier, the delicate nature of World War I era bombers, among many other stories. Some characters are based directly on historical figures, while others are blends of several. These female pilots essentially trained one another to advance through the ranks and assignments, and their mutual support enabled them to succeed despite limited resources. The plane seen on stage symbolizes that collective effort, representing not just the two pilots flying it, but the whole group.

By the war's end, they were the most decorated unit in the Soviet Air Force. They did this having built a community that embraced femininity and what made them different from their male counterparts in The Red Army.

-Zoe Gilbert

"To be able to create opportunities where women are telling their stories in their own words, you're just getting a better perspective of the human experience." -Reese Witherspoon



Production Spotlights

Vera:

Elliott Bell is a History major and Theatre minor at SVSU, and they are so excited for their first performance in the black box at SVSU! They previously worked on *Noises Off!* as a stagehand and *The Miser* as Brindavoine. They are so happy that they were trusted with Vera's character and had the opportunity to work with this cast and crew! They would like to thank their family, friends, and boyfriend for supporting them through this process.

Serafima:

Dana Samalik is a third-year Communications and Theatre Education major. She is so excited to share this heartwarming story of *The Night Witches* with an audience! Before this production, Dana performed in SVSU's *Very Berry Dead* as J.J., *Urinetown* as Officer Barrel, The Faerie Queen in *Burning Bluebeard*, Belinda in *Noises Off*, and most recently as Harpagon in *The Miser*. She has loved participating in the theatre program at SVSU and has been delighted to work with such a fantastic cast and crew. She would like to thank her friends for always being there for her and her family for their endless support throughout her theatrical career. Enjoy the show!

Tatyana:

Scout is a fourth-year Communication and Theatre major ready to take the stage by storm as Tatyana in *The Night Witches*! She has been in a variety of roles such as Le Fleche in *The Miser*, Lockstock in *Urinetown*, Eddie Foy in *Burning Bluebeard*, and Dotty in *Noises Off*, just to name a few. With a heart full of gratitude, Scout wants to thank her supportive family and the amazing cast and crew for their endless support. Finally, she wants to give a big thank you to her wonderful boyfriend, Joseph, for his patience while she endlessly practiced her Russian accent with him.

Nina:

Emily McGlynn is a second-year Creative Writing major with a Professional and Technical Writing Minor. This is her first time acting at Saginaw Valley State University, but she could previously be seen acting at Marine City High School as Elinor in *Sense and Sensibility*, Shelia in *The Boys Next Door*, and Emma in *Over the River and Through the Woods*. Emily would like to give a shoutout to her family and friends who came to support her! Enjoy the show!

Irina:

Veronica Vozniak is a fifth-year Mathematics and Secondary Education Major, and she is so excited to make her stage debut here at SVSU. She has previously worked as an electrician for several shows, including *Burning Bluebeard*, *Noises Off!*, and most recently *The Miser*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless amount of support and encouragement.





Polina:

Isabel is a third-year Theatre major and Sociology minor. This is her 9th show that she has worked on. She was props helper for *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *The Effect on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*, U/S for the character Ma in *Very Berry Dead*, Soupy Sue in *Urinetown*, Henry Gilfoil in *Burning Bluebeard*, Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off*, Faith in *columbinus*, Elise in *The Miser*, and of course Polina in *The Night Witches*. Isabel would like to thank the Theatre Department for giving her the chance to explore different characters and her parents for always supporting her for her love for acting.



Zoya:

Paige is a third-year majoring Theatre with a focus in Stage Management and Acting. She could previously be found on stage for SVSU's productions of *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in the-Moon Marigolds*, *Noises Off*!, and *columbinus*. She also enjoys her time off-stage where she could be found as Assistant Stage Manager for *Urinetown: The Musical* and Stage Manager for *Burning Bluebeard*. Paige is elated to be back on stage telling the important story of *The Night Witches*. She would like to thank her family, friends, and incredible boyfriend for being such a special support system through this journey! Enjoy the show!



Raisa:

Maddie is a first-year Mathematics for secondary education major with a minor in English for secondary education. This is their first show at SVSU and overall, they are thrilled to bring Rasia to life for you all! They would like to thank their mom for always supporting them through thick and thin, as well as their siblings who have had their back their whole lives! This truly is such an impactful show with such a great cast and they can not wait to share it with you all!



Alexandra:

Haley is a Social Work major with a theatre minor! This is her second time acting for an SVSU production. You may recognize her from *The Miser* which is the show she could previously be found acting in. She is very excited to be playing a part in this show and cannot wait for everyone to see it! Haley would like to thank her fellow castmates, and the crew for all the hard work they have put into this show. She hopes you enjoy the performance.



Valentina:

Abby Yearata is a second-year student in college, with this being her first semester at SVSU. She is a Theater major with a minor in Music Theater. Her most previous shows include *Polish Joke* at the Historic Masonic Temple in Bay City where she played a number of different characters, *Fonz and Origo* as Origo at the Mid Michigan Enchanted Forest, and *The Little Mermaid* where she was head choreographer with the Muth Community Players. She is excited to have *The Night Witches* be her first show at SVSU and would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her through her theatrical antics.

Marta:

Abigail is a first-year at SVSU, double majoring in Theatre and Political Science - Public Administration. This is her first performance at SVSU but you may have seen her as Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde* or Wednesday Addams in *The Addams Family* both at Brandon High School. Abigail looks forward to continuing her theatre education at SVSU for the next four years (possibly taking a break to complete an internship at Walt Disney World!)

Abigail would like to thank her mom for always giving her the words of encouragement that she needs.



Abigail Rowe

Director

Zoe is a fourth-year Theatre major with a minor in Entrepreneurship, and a focus in Directing and Choreography. She recently directed a staged reading of a new work at the KCACTF Region III festival, but *The Night Witches* is the first production she has directed. Zoe is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, and an alum of Alpha Sigma Alpha. She also owns New Space Productions, LLC and works as a freelance producer in the Great Lakes Bay Area.



Zoe Gilbert

Assistant Director:

Emma is a third-year Theatre major with minors in Management and Sociology. This is her first time taking on the position of Assistant Director and has had such a wonderful experience working with everyone! Emma is a jack of all trades within the theatre department and prior to this production, has been involved as the Stage Manager for *The Miser*, Lead Electrician and Light Board Operator for *Burning Bluebeard*, and as an actor in *Urinetown: The Musical*. Emma would like to thank Zoe for the opportunity to work along side her. Enjoy the show!



Emma Koch

Stage Manager/Technical Liaison:

Drea is a fourth-year Theatre Major with a minor in Management. She is so excited to hold all of the roles she has! Previous roles at SVSU have included Stage Manager (*Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Very Berry Dead*, *Noises Off*), Sound Designer (*Top Girls*, *columbinus*), and Assistant Stage Manager (*Burning Bluebeard*). She has also held positions at Midland Center for the Arts as Stage Manager (*Next to Normal*) and Assistant Stage Manager (*Newsies*, *Footloose*).

Drea is an Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and was the Assistant Fight Director for *Newsies* (MCFTA) and *columbinus* (SVSU).



Drea Brown*

Assistant Stage Manager:

Lily is a first-year Communication and Theatre major with a minor in secondary education.

This is Lily's first show in an assistant stage manager role. In the previous show of this season, *The Miser*, she was on wardrobe crew. She is so grateful to be here and is grateful to be given the opportunities she has. She is so lucky to have Drea to be able to guide her and have Emma and Zoe to look up too. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Lily Oddo*



Lighting Designer:

Rem Ferguson is a first-year theatre major and is very excited to be working as the lead lighting designer for the first time at SVSU. Rem has worked on *The Miser* as co-prop designer as well as previously working as a stage manager, lighting designer/technician, and in the shop building sets. They'd like to thank all their friends and family for their support.



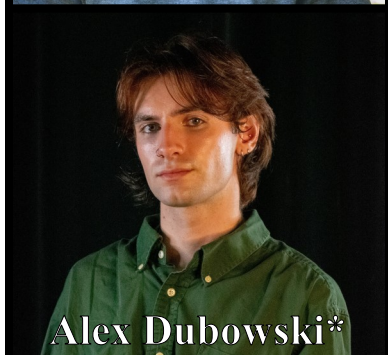
Sound Designer:

Tyler Obermiller is a second-year theatre major. He is so excited to be the lead sound designer and sound board operator for *The Night Witches*. With this being Tyler's first sound design he was so thrilled to have the opportunity to share his work with a live audience and looks forward to sound designing *Women Who Weave* next semester. Tyler's previous involvement with the theatre department consists of assistant sound designer for *Noises Off* and the role of Robert Murray in *Burning Bluebeard*. Tyler thanks all his friends and family for their support as he explores his passion for theatre.



Composer/Audio Manager:

Eric is a third-year with a focus in Pre-Law. Eric joins our production of *The Night Witches* as our Composer and Audio Manager. Eric is thrilled that he finally gets the opportunity to write music for this production! In the past, Eric has Sound Designed most of the SVSU Productions since Fall 2022. Eric has also had some experience acting in *Urinetown the Musical*, and *Columbinus*. Finally, Eric has light designed *The Miser*. Eric would like to thank his family for helping him with everything he has experienced over the past few weeks!



Scenic Designer/Technical Liaison:

Alex is a third-year theatre major with a minor in psychology and a focus on lighting design and technologies. This is Alex's first time doing scenic design as well as Co-Technical Liaison at SVSU. He has previously light-designed *columbinus* and *Burning Bluebeard*, which earned a Certificate of Merit as well as an Honorable Mention for Theatrical Excellence in Lighting Design at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. This is his second year serving as the Student Scene Shop Worker. Alex is incredibly honored to be able to support, build, and share such an important show.



Production Manager

Lela Murray is a third-year Exercise Science Pre-Athletic Training and Physical Therapy Major and is excited to be the Production Manager for *The Night Witches*! Lela is passionate about theatre and is excited to hold many roles for productions this season. She was recently awarded a KCACTF Certificate of Merit for her work as the Assistant Director in *Noises Off!* and was also the Stage Manager for *columbinus*. Most recently, she was the Assistant Director for *The Miser*. Lela would like to thank her family for always helping her do her best and believing in her with everything she does.

Costume Designer:

Lila is a third-year double major in theatre and psychology. They are so excited to have the opportunity to costume design this show. This is her second time taking the lead on costume design, her first being in a production of *Polish Joke* over the summer. Her prior involvement with the SVSU Theatre Department has consisted of assistant costume designing *Burning Bluebeard*, *Noises Off*, and *columbinus*, as well as acting in several prior shows, most recently as Frosine in *The Miser*. She loves this theatre program and would like to thank all those close to her who support her both in and outside of theatre.



Lila Duyendack*

Hair & Makeup Designer:

Blythe Cheney is a sixth-year Professional and Technical Writing Major with double minors in Theatre and Community Journalism. They are SO excited to be the Hair and Makeup Designer in this show, as this is their first lead role in a production. Previously, they were the House Manager for *Burning Bluebeard* and on the makeup crew for *columbinus*. He hopes to come back to SVSU in Fall 2025 to begin his Master of Social Work, emphasizing in trauma-informed care. Blythe would like to thank his friends, family, and theatre family for making his (potential) last semester at SVSU the best time of his life.



Blythe Cheney

Properties Designer:

Lydia is a fourth-year Communications major with a Theatre minor. She is mainly a props designer for both the SVSU Theatre Department and a theatre group in Flint with her boyfriend, but has gotten into publicity recently. She hopes to perform in the future as an actress, and has taken the stage a few times before, but right now she is happy doing what she loves with whom she loves! She wants to thank her boyfriend, Thomas, and her theatre family for being there for her!



Lydia Bolzman

Properties Designer:

Kyle Smith is a second-year ELA Secondary Education major with a minor in Theatre and Communication Education. He is incredibly excited to be on the show as one of the Props Designers. This is his first year designing for SVSU theatre and is incredibly grateful for the opportunity that he was given. He would like to thank friends and family for supporting him.



Kyle Smith

For updates on our upcoming season or information on how to get involved, check out our Social Media Pages!

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Acknowledgements

At Saginaw Valley State University, we recognize that we are located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Wyandot, and Sauk. We specifically acknowledge the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the land ceded in the Saginaw Treaty of 1819, on which we reside. We appreciate the importance of preserving and honoring the traditions of Indigenous People who are an integral part of our shared history. As we pledge to serve as responsible stewards of the land, we endeavor for this history to inform our teaching, scholarship, and our commitment to community.

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

Full Time Faculty

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

Adjunct Faculty

Courtney A. Kelly, MFA

Staff

Jerry Dennis, Scene Shop Supervisor

Kelly J. Helmreich, Administrative Secretary

Acknowledgements

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President of Saginaw Valley State University

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Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs

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Dean College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences

The Office of University Communications

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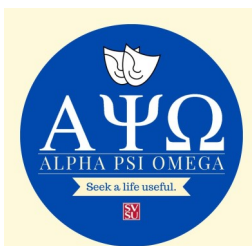
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Caleb Hopper - For use of sound equipment

Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega - APO is a National Theatre Honors Society for participants in collegiate theatre with the aim of encouraging dramatic production at every step in a person's academic career

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 SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Women Who Weave

BY J.S. PULLER

Auditions!

DECEMBER 2ND & 3RD @ 7:00PM
IN THE DANCE STUDIO (C181)

DIRECTED BY
PEGGY MEAD-FINIZIO

SCAN FOR AUDITION PACKET





The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

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, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 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 goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.