



**THEATRE AND FILM**  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

presents

# ALISON'S HOUSE

By Susan Glaspell

Directed by Michael Long

Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center  
November 11-14, 2022

# Cast

(in order of appearance)

Ann Leslie	Emily Copeland
Jennie	Nikki Walker
Richard Knowles	Christian Watts
Ted Stanhope	Murchison Murray
Louise	Semaje Newton
The Father	Jake Lewis
Eben	Logan Chance
Elsa	Carley Carey
Miss Agatha	Megan Brightwell
Hodges	Sean Godfrey
Mrs. Hodges	Bridgett Rayburn



## Setting

Period

December 31, 1899

Act I

The library of the old Stanhope homestead in Iowa,  
on the Mississippi.

ACT II

The same as Act I

ACT III

Alison's Room

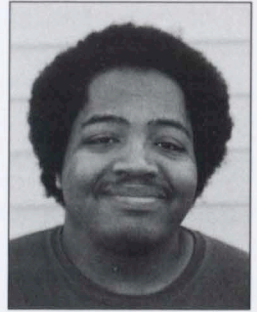
*There will be two 10-minute intermissions*



Emily Copeland



Nikki Walker



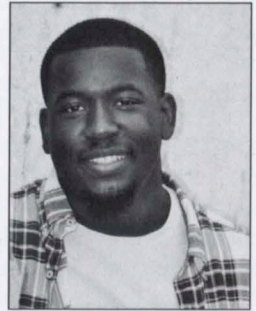
Christian Watts



Murchison Murray



Semaje Newton



Jake Lewis



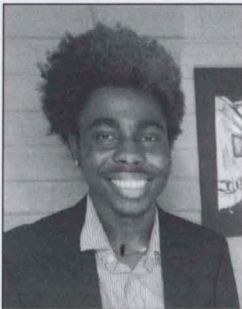
Logan Chance



Carley Carey



Megan Brightwell



Sean Godfrey



Bridgett Rayburn

## Artistic Team

Director	Mike Long
Scenic Designer	Jennifer Luck
Lighting Designer	Alli Angel
Costume Designer	Freddy Clements
Sound Designers	Kylie Sargent, El Hataway
Dramaturg	Marija Reiff
Assistant Director	Stanton Yarboro
Assistant Dramaturg	Maggie Williams
Assistant Scenic Designer/Props	Erin Rose Pempel

## Who's Who in the Cast

**EMILY COPELAND** (*Ann*) is 22 years old and a senior Theatre Performance major at JSU. Some of her previous roles were Billy Bullysauros in *The Big Bad Bullysauros*, Beck in *Boy Gets Girl*, Margot in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Vivienne in *Legally Blonde, Jr*. She has loved performing since she was four, and theatre became a big part of her life in high school. She encourages everyone to get involved, and she is very excited to bring this show to life with her wonderful castmates!

**NIKKI WALKER** (*Jennie*) is a current junior at JSU with a major in Theatre Performance. You may have seen her in JSU's show last semester *The Big Bad Bullysauros* as the teacher Miss Anna. Along with performance Nikki has begun training in JSU's scenic workshop and learning how to be a carpenter. At the end of her time at JSU she plans on becoming a professional theatrical performer with experience in carpentry and backstage running as well. In her free time Nikki enjoys spending time with her friends and family and going on small adventures.

**CHRISTIAN WATTS** (*Knowles*) is a 23 year old senior theatre performance major here at JSU. He's just having a

blast in the Theatre department, and he's excited to join the cast of *Alison's House* and work with our hard working and talented cast!!! Christian wants to thank Mike Long for this amazing opportunity to do this cool project and thank his parents and friends for their support.

**MURCHISON MURRAY** (*Ted*) is a 20-year-old Theatre Performance major with a minor in Music. This is their first production at JSU. They are so excited to bring Ted Stanhope to life on stage as a part of *Alison's House*. They would love to thank their friends and the Theatre of Gadsden for helping them rediscover their love for theatre!

**SEMAJE NEWTON** (*Louise*) is a sophomore at Jacksonville State University, and she is a Theatre Performance major. She is 19 years old and loves dancing, singing, and acting. She is excited to be in her first ever JSU mainstage play and take on the role of "Louise" in *Alison's House*. Semaje has participated in many musical theatre productions, but her favorite role was "Deloris Van Cartier" in *Sister Act Jr*. She has always been interested in theatre and she hopes to grow and develop her techniques to

become a skilled actress.

**JAKE LEWIS** (*The Father*) is honored to be working on *Alison's House* with his fellow cast members. Jake is a senior here at JSU majoring in Theatre-Performance. This will be his ninth and final collegiate role in JSU's Drama Department, his last being *Voltaire in Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* this past semester. He would like to thank his family and friends for the ongoing support and love they give. He would also like to thank the professors here in the department for pushing him every day.

**LOGAN CHANCE** (*Eben*) is a senior theatre (performance) major at JSU. He is also the recipient of a JSU Theatre Scholarship. This will be Logan's fourth time stepping on to JSU's mainstage. His other performances with JSU include *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the 2021 One Act Festival, and *The Big Bad Bullysauros*. Logan looks forward to taking the stage again, and he would like to thank director Mike Long for casting him and for giving him this opportunity. Logan would like to leave everyone with a reminder that they are valid. "Don't forget to love each other."

**CARLEY CAREY** (*Elsa*) is a senior at JSU majoring in Exercise Science with a clinical concentration and a Theatre minor. This is her fourth show at JSU. She has been in *Once Upon a Mattress* (Lady Beatrice), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), as well as *The Big Bad Bullysauros* (Terry Pterodactyl) and *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight* (Madam). She also has experience in carpentry work for shows such as *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Boy Gets Girl*, *Once Upon A Mattress* and other shows at JSU as well as a carpenter at Utah Shakespeare Festival. She wants to

thank the director, cast and crew for an amazing process. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**MEGAN BRIGHTWELL** (*Miss Agatha*) hopes this portrayal of Aunt Agatha honors the heart of her late grandmother. As Aunt March in *Little Women*, she connected with a matriarch's desire to control her family's welfare. In Aunt Agatha, she explores the struggle to release that caretaking duty. Her JSU career includes designing and puppeteering Tic Toc Croc in *Peter Pan*, Queen Aggravain in *Once Upon a Mattress* and art direction and "the Woman" in the film *Tipping Point*. She is an Integrated Studies graduate student extending her skills in theater and oral history research while homeschooling three creative kids with her husband Scott Brightwell.

**SEAN GODFREY** (*Hodges*) is twenty-one, born in Montgomery, AL where he also graduated from Brewbaker Technology Magnet High. He's a senior at JSU where he majors in Fine Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design. *Alison's House* will be his first t Rayburn (Mrs. Hodges) Bridgett, She/Her, is a senior Theater Performance major and has appeared in several shows at JSU including *Imaginary Invalid*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and most recently *Romeo and Juliet*. She also had the opportunity of directing *The Big Bad Bullysauros* last season. This will be her final main stage show as a student and she is so excited to spend her last semester acting in this show!

**MIKE LONG** (*Director*) is an actor, director, and theatre and academic administrator who has worked around the country at theaters including Virginia Repertory Theatre, Commonweal Theatre, and Heritage Theatre Festival. He holds an MFA from the University of Virginia and

has taught at UVA and the American University of Sharjah. He is an Academic Advisor at JSU, where he also teaches and directs.

**JENNIFER LUCK** (*Scenic Designer - Assistant Professor of Lighting and Scenic Design*) an Alabama native, has worked as a designer across the United States. Her credits range from Assistant Lighting Designer for Creflo Dollar's Los Angeles Revival while in graduate school to developing new works with Title:Point, an experimental theatre company started in New York City with friend and colleague Theresa Buchheister. Over the course of her career she has worked for theatre companies in New York, Wyoming, Kansas, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Alabama. A graduate of the Scenography program at the University of Kansas, Jennifer has dabbled in all aspects of theatrical design, as well as technical direction. Her favorite past projects include: Lighting/Projection/Sound Design for *She Kills Monsters*, Scenic Design for *MACBETH is the New Black*, Lighting Design for *The Woman in Black*, and Costume Design for *Lysistrata*.

**ALLI ANGEL** (*Lighting Designer*) earned her BA in Drama Production with a concentration in Lighting Design from Jacksonville State University in 2020 and is excited to be returning as Lighting Designer for *Alison's House*. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in English Language Arts. Several of her previous credits include *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Right, Once Upon a Mattress*, *Company*, *Guys & Dolls*, *My Fair Lady*, *Carmen*, and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

**FREDDY CLEMENTS** (*Costume Designer - Distinguished Professor*

*of Costume Design*) holds a BA from Emory & Henry College and an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University. He has designed costumes for various theaters including Wayside Theatre in Middletown VA, CPCC in Charlotte NC, The Barter Theatre in Abington Va and Theatre In The Square in Marietta, GA. On the University level, he has taught courses including costume design, costume construction, stage make-up, and advanced stage make-up. He is an experienced cutter/drafter and has extensive research and experience in early twentieth century corsetry. He has also been constructing authentic hand tailored Scottish kilts since 1991 and led master classes for the USITT Southeast Regional, SETC, and Dragon\*con.

**EL HATTAWAY** (*Sound Designer*) is a junior from Montgomery, AL. This is their second show with the department, but their debut for sound design. They are super excited and eternally grateful for this opportunity and cannot wait for what comes next. When not at the theatre El enjoys coloring, reading, and playing with their lovely (definitely not temperamental) cat, Neville.

**KYLIE SARGENT** (*Sound Designer*) is currently a sophomore, majoring in theatre with a concentration of production. She has a few years of experience of performing before attending college. She is from Sylacauga, Alabama. Kylie has performed for Sylacauga Community Playhouse, her local community theater since 2015, and has also been a dancer since she was 10. Kylie also has some experience with helping backstage with some shows. She was the sound designer assistant and board operator for *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight*

last spring. She is very excited to be co-designing sound for this show!

**STANTON YARBORO** (*Assistant Director*) is a 19 year old sophomore theatre major with a performance concentration. While attending JSU, she has performed in *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Emilie: La Marquise du Chatelet Defends Her Life Tonight*. She is thrilled to be a part of this theatre community that would not be possible with the amazing faculty and peers that have embraced her. This is her first assistant director opportunity and she hopes you enjoy the play!

**MARIJA REIFF** (*Dramturg*) Marija Reiff is an assistant professor in the English department at JSU. Prior to receiving her PhD, Dr. Reiff spent many years as a professional actress, singer, director, and theater educator. She now researches and publishes on theater of the late-nineteenth century.

**ELLEN MARIE PECK** (*Production Stage Manger, Professor of Theatre History*) teaches Theatre History, Dramatic literature, musical theatre history, and stage management. As a historian, she specializes in musical theatre with an emphasis on the early twentieth century. Her book *Sweet Mystery: The Musical Works of Rida Johnson Young* is now available from Oxford University Press. She has presented at several national theatre conferences and published articles in *Studies in Musical Theatre* and *Contemporary Theatre Review*. Ellen has also worked as a freelance Stage Manager for several theatres and opera companies around the country, including Michigan Opera Theatre, Goodspeed Musicals, Spoleto Festival USA, and Utah Opera. She has been a member of Actors Equity Association (AEA) since 2000. Ellen received her BA in Theatre from

Oakland University, and MA and PhD in Theatre History from the University of Illinois.

**ADDIE ZANER** (*Stage Manager*) is a junior Production major in the Theatre and Film department and is excited to share her first Mainstage show as Stage Manager. Other credits include Stage Manager of APO's *The Big Bad Bullysauros* and ASM of *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight!* Addie spent her summer at Florida Repertory Theatre as a Teaching Artist for their productions of *Footloose Jr*, *The Little Mermaid Jr*, and *Shrek Jr*. Addie would like to thank her parents, her sister, her grandmothers, and her boyfriend for being her constant support systems through this process and inspiring her every day!

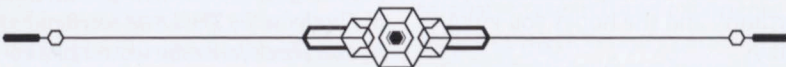
**LEAH BUSSEY** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is thrilled for you to experience Alison's House. She is a junior who is majoring in Theatre Performance and minoring in Childhood Development. Previous credits: Cecily Cardew in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Harriet in *Boy Gets Girl*, Ensemble in *9 to 5*, and Assistant Lighting Designer for *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight*. Thanks to the cast and crew for their hard work. Enjoy the show!

**JOHN A. DAVIS** (*Technical Director*) is an Alabama native, born in Birmingham. He attended Troy University where he studied technical theatre before graduating from Auburn University at Montgomery with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. He completed his Master of Fine Arts in Technical Production at Florida State University. JD has experience in technical direction, management, and carpentry with Utah Shakespeare Festival, The

Lost Colony, and numerous other production opportunities through both Union and private contracts across the Southeast. He is a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) and the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT).

**RANDY BLADES** (*Producer - Department Head and Professor of Costume Technology*) has built costumes for theatres around the country including the Atlanta Opera, the Alliance Theatre, and the Utah

Shakespeare Festival. His designs have appeared at Penn State, Auburn University-Montgomery, and the Maples Repertory Theatre. His recent costume design of *The Normal Giant* festival, *The Fort Lauderdale Fringe Festival*, and *The Hollins Playwright's Lab*. Costume Designs at JSU include *She Kills Monsters*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*, *Into the Woods*, and *Antigone*. Randy has an MFA from Penn State in Costume Design, and a BA from Jacksonville State in Drama.



## Dramaturg Notes

By Marija Reiff

Susan Glaspell, the author of *Alison's House*, is one of the most important artists in American theater history. As a prominent playwright and one of the key founders of Provincetown Players, the first modern American repertory theater, Glaspell was integral to making the stage a venue not just for entertainment, but also a site where contemporary social issues could be addressed.

One of the most pressing issues during Glaspell's time was women's rights. *Alison's House* was written in 1930 and won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1931, just barely a decade after women gained the right to vote in 1920. Her play, though, was less concerned with legal rights than women's abilities to control their own destinies. The conflict at the ostensible heart of *Alison's House* centers on the titular house, where a now-famous poet lived and died. The fictional poet Alison Stanhope is loosely based on the real life of Emily Dickinson, and Alison's family grapples not just with her property, but also with larger questions of artistic legacy.

More importantly, the play uses the theatrical trope of the fallen woman to explore changing sexual morals and differing family values. The fallen woman—i.e. a woman who was perceived to engage in improper sexual behavior—was a common character in nineteenth and early-twentieth-century literature. Usually, the portrayals went one of two ways: either the fallen woman was a pathetic, wronged victim (examples include *Fantine* in *Les Misérables* and *Little Emily* in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*) or a fast-living, materialistic courtesan (examples include *Violetta* in the opera *La Traviata* and *Becky Sharp* in William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*). In *Alison's House*, the portrayal of the fallen woman moves beyond these characteristics to become an everywoman struggling to live a meaningful life in the best way she knows how.

*Alison's House* is a play without villains and heroes, a world where normal people struggle with doing the right thing. As *New Year's Eve 1899* comes to a close, the question becomes whether the values of the old century will be carried into the new one.



## Production Staff

Production Stage Manager	Ellen Peck
Stage Manager	Addie Zaner
Assistant Stage Manager	Leah Bussey
Technical Director	John A. Davis
Costume Shop Supervisor	Megan Brightwell
Scenic Charge Artist	Jess Collier
Assistant Scenic Charge	Grayson Singleton
Cutter/Draper	Megan Brightwell, Randy Blades
Student Production Staff	Jess Collier, Eliza Freeman, Erin Rose Pempel, Bridgett Rayburn, Nikki Walker, Addie Zaner
Head Carpenter	Bridgett Rayburn
Scenic Carpenters	Carley Carey, Rebecca Covington, Logan McConico, Andrew Entrekin, Garise Hanna, El Hataway, Brett Henderson, Quenell James, Hanna Lett, Murchison Murray, Maura Simpson, Skylee Vaughn, Nikki Walker
Stitchers	Julia Black, Carley Carey, Blake Colley, Emily Copeland, Logan Chance, Juliana Hastick, Kaitlyn Hocken, Shelby Lang, Wesley Lewis, Andrew Mathis, Aahmariya Pointer, Maura Simpson, Olivia Sullivan, Skylee Vaughn, Stanton Yarboro
Scenic Painter	Nicol Benson
Electrics crew	Carmen Johnson, Trevor McWilliams, Alaina Moeller, Levi Pipes, Ethan Riggs, Grayson Singleton, Jaden Vaughn
Stagehands	Hanna Lett, Laurelei Veasey, Maggie Williams
Wardrobe	Eliza Freeman (Head), Maura Simpson
Sound Board Operator	El Hataway
Light Board Operator	Kaya Knox
Box Office Manager	Lora Spivey



# The Kennedy Center

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

*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.*

*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.

**THE ILIAD,  
THE ODYSSEY,  
AND ALL OF GREEK  
MYTHOLOGY**

**IN 99 MINUTES OR LESS!**

By Jay Hopkins, John Hunter,  
and Homer

Directed by Addie Zaner

We are pleased to announce special school performances of this Spring's co-production with Alpha Psi Omega.

Join us at the Stone Center on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, or 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM for this wild ride. Tickets are only \$5 each.

*The Gods walk the Red Carpet. The Creation of Mankind is a botched subcontractors job. Man and Pandora try settling down despite an ominous wedding gift. Love stories are a dating show and the Greek Tragedies are sports highlights! And don't forget the two greatest stories ever told, The Iliad and The Odyssey. Kidnap Helen of Troy and you've got a 10 year slap-fight of epic proportions with pouty Achilles, war-hungry Agamemnon, and clever Odysseus, destined to wander the seas for 10 more years fighting giants, seductresses, and the Gods themselves. All the silly decisions, the absurd destinies, and the goofy characters are presented lightning-bolt fast with hysterical results as the clock is stopped with only seconds to spare.*

For more information please email Lora Spivey (lspivey@jsu.edu).

The use of cellphones in the theatre is prohibited. No pictures or videos may be taken during the performance.



**THEATRE AND FILM**  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

## 2022-2023 Season

**ALISON'S HOUSE**  
By Susan Glaspell

Directed by Michael Long

The Siren Song of  
**Stephen Jay Gould**  
By Benjamin Bettenbender

Directed by Megan Brightwell

**ONE ACT FESTIVAL** ★ ★ ★ ★  
★ ★ & **STUDENT SHOWCASE**

**THE ILIAD, THE ODYSSEY, AND ALL OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY**  
*IN 99 MINUTES OR LESS!*  
By Jay Hopkins, John Hunter, and Homer

Directed by Addie Zaner

**SPRING AWAKENING**

Book & Lyrics by Steven Sater  
Music by Duncan Shoik  
Based on the play by Frank Wedekind  
Directed by Gardlyn Conover  
This show contains mature content



**STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL**

Visit [www.jsutheatreandfilm.com](http://www.jsutheatreandfilm.com) or call (256) 782-5648 for tickets and information

### Upcoming Auditions!

Want to participate in the Theatre and Film Department?

For information about upcoming auditions, including auditions for our film, Birdsock Academy and our musical Spring Awakening visit [www.jsu.edu/theatreandfilm](http://www.jsu.edu/theatreandfilm) and click on "Audition Opportunities"