

# MACHINAL

**By Sophie Treadwell**

**Adapted and Directed by Carolyn Conover**

Presented by



DEPARTMENT OF  
THEATRE & FILM  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

November 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2024

# MACHINAL

***Machinal* is rated PG-13 and is not suitable for young audiences. It contains adult content, including discussions of pregnancy, abortion, infidelity, and childbirth, as well as descriptions of violence and death. The production will also contain flashing lights, sudden loud noises, and continuous rapid sound effects. Viewer discretion is advised**

## Special Thanks

The cast and crew of *Machinal* would like to thank the following for their support and assistance in making this show possible: Dr. Gordon Harvey, Oxford Performing Arts Center and Gadsden State Community College.

And to these local businesses who generously helped us advertise our show, THANK YOU for supporting live theatre in Jacksonville.

Called Coffee, Anniston  
Continental Coin Laundry, Jacksonville  
Crazy for Dance, Jacksonville  
Heirloom Taco, Jacksonville  
Jacksonville Community Center  
Jefferson's of Jacksonville  
Lickin Good Donuts, Jacksonville  
Lucid Dreams Tattoos & Piercings, Anniston  
Mad Hatter Cupcakes  
The Redbird Coffee, Jacksonville  
Red Threads Apparel, Jacksonville  
Salon Alon, Jacksonville  
The Saloon, Jacksonville  
Starbucks of Jacksonville  
Struts of Jacksonville

# Cast

Young Woman.....	Justice Fulks
Mr. Jones.....	Jacob Cushing
Young Man.....	Quenell James
Young Woman’s Mother.....	JaLisiah Mosley
Telephone Girl.....	Sa’Mitra Hill
Adding Clerk, 2nd Reporter.....	Edith Davis
Stenographer, 4th Reporter, Guard.....	Tèa Wilson*
Telephone Girl 2, 3rd Reporter.....	Alexis Stanfield*
Filing Clerk 1, Man 1, Bailiff.....	Wyatt Cornelius
Filing Clerk 2, Lawyer for the Prosecution....	Tywan Hill*
Child, Lawyer for the Defense.....	Ryan Godfrey*
Mom, Singer.....	Molly Willingham
Girlfriend, Court Clerk.....	Aaliyah Boone*
Boyfriend, Judge.....	Eli Sims
Wife 1, Waiter, Barber.....	Adrianna Green*
Nurse 2, Wife 2, 1st Reporter.....	Stanton Yarboro*
Husband, Date.....	Devin Knight*
Nurse 1, Jailor.....	Semajé Newton*
Doctor, Man 2.....	Brayden Turner*
Priest.....	James Watkins

\*Denotes participation in movement ensemble

# Episodes

Episode I: Business	Episode VI: Intimate
Episode II: Home	Episode VII: Domestic
Episode III: Honeymoon	Episode VIII: Legal
Episode IV: Maternal	Episode IX: Machine
Episode V: Prohibited	

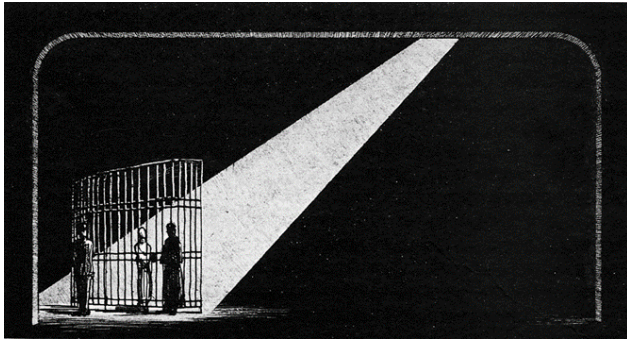
The show will run approximately 90 minutes. There will be no intermission.

**No photography or video or audio recording is allowed during the performance.**

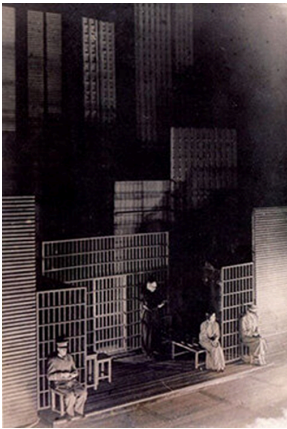
# EXPRESSIONISM

There is no doubt that contemporary theatre audiences are most familiar and accustomed to the style of Realism: a traditional style in theatre where all the details, stories, dialogue, and characteristics within a production attempt an accurate depiction of what happens in realistic storytelling. However, in *Machinal*, that is not the case. Instead, this play is written in a unique theatrical style called Expressionism.

Expressionism is not realism. Rather, it is a nonrealistic style, made popular in the early 20th Century, that exaggerates and distorts moments of reality to convey abstract individual feelings and concepts. Expressionistic stories portray the central protagonist's most inward thoughts or feelings rather than what realistically happens to them. Certain characters are nameless, and portrayed in a way that makes them seem unreal or inhuman, and the threatening world is shaped by vile, abstract representations of themes and concepts. Bits of dialogue are choppy and stylized and can seem robotic in some moments and haunting in others. The "music" is less of a flowing melody and more of a symbolic representation of the feelings being portrayed. The style was also popular in early silent films like *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *Genuine: The Tragedy of a Vampire*. Although Expressionism is quite different from the realism of today, it still influences contemporary genres like sci-fi, thrillers, and horror.



Designer Sketch from *Machinal* (1928)



Production photo from an early production of *Machinal*



Still from Expressionistic film, *Genuine* (1920)



Film set for *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* – Expressionistic Film (1920)

## **The true story behind *Machinal***

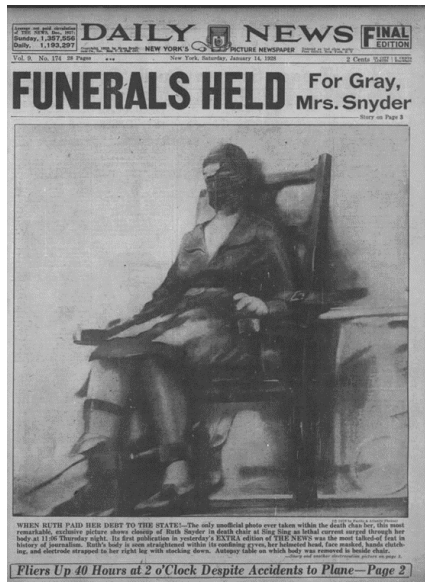
*Machinal* by Sophie Treadwell is an Expressionist play based on the murder trials of Ruth Snyder and Henry Judd Gray. In 1915, twenty-year-old Ruth Brown married 33-year-old Albert Snyder in New York City. Three years later, Ruth gave birth to their only child, Lorraine. In 1925, Ruth began an affair with Henry Judd Gray. He also had a daughter, Jane, who was around the same age as Lorraine. On March 20, 1927, Gray and Ruth killed Albert by brutally strangling, suffocating, and beating him to death. Gray then proceeded to tie Ruth's hands and feet together to stage the scene as a burglary and divert the attention away from the two. Lorraine, who was nine at the time, awakened that morning to her mother crawling to her door and knocking on it, insisting that her husband had been killed in the night by burglars.

Ruth and Gray were accused of murdering Albert and stood trial together, though Ruth requested and was denied a separate trial. They blamed each other; Ruth saying she had tried to stop Gray, and Gray claiming he was intoxicated and influenced to commit the crime. They were both found guilty and sentenced to death by electrocution. While Ruth resided in Sing-Sing prison in New York, Ruth's mother cared for Lorraine. She would later be awarded full guardianship of the child. Before their deaths, Gary wrote eleven letters to his daughter, Jane, one for each of her birthdays until she turned 21. Ruth wrote only two letters: one to Lorraine, and one to her mother, with instructions not to give her daughter the letter until she was "old enough to understand". Per her mother's request, Lorraine did not see Ruth before she was executed.

Ruth was executed on January 12, 1928, and became only the 4th woman to be executed in the state of New York, the 3rd woman to be executed via electric chair in New York, the 2nd woman in Sing-Sing to be executed, and the 1st person to ever have their picture taken while being executed. A reporter famously snuck a camera into the execution room and snapped a photo while the electricity was running through Ruth's body. Gray was executed 10

minutes later. The covert photo of Snyder's execution has been described as "the most remarkable exclusive picture in the history of criminology."

Sophie Treadwell was hired for her first job as a journalist in 1908, where she had the opportunity to interview celebrities and cover murder trials, and when Ruth Snyder's trial made headlines in 1927, Treadwell was assigned to follow it. Soon after, she wrote *Machinal*, and it premiered on Broadway on September 7, 1928. While its first production only ran for one month, it has remained a very popular piece through the years, heavily anthologized in dramatic collections and taught and studied all over the world. It was revived on Broadway in 2014 and was nominated for four Tony Awards. While nearly 100 years old, *Machinal* echoes our contemporary moment; in the face of increasing technology that threatens to numb us beyond authentic connection, its thundering questions could not be more relevant.



January 14, 1928 Edition of the *Daily News*, featuring Snyder's Execution Photo.

# Artistic Team

Director .....Carolyn Conover  
Stage Manager .....El Hataway  
Assistant Stage Manager .....Lydia Roan  
Technical Director .....John Davis  
Costume Designer.....Skylee Vaughn  
Makeup Designer.....Skylee Vaughn  
Choreographer.....Alison Woodward  
Intimacy Choreographer.....Carolyn Conover  
Intimacy/Dance Captains.....Semajé Newton and  
Stanton Yarboro  
Lighting Designer.....Alli Angel  
Scenic Designer.....Addie Zaner  
Sound Designer.....Randy Blades  
Dramaturg.....Lydia Roan





# Production Staff

Production Manager.....	John Davis
Costume Shop Manager .....	Ellie Boozer
Wardrobe Head .....	Akira Ballew
Wardrobe Crew .....	Akira Ballew, Katelyn Boozer, and Rylee Moore
First Hand .....	Akira Ballew and Ellie Boozer
Stitchers .....	Akira Ballew, Katelyn Boozer, and Calcifer Jackson
Properties Head.....	Ashlea Key
Scenic Charge Artist.....	Ashlea Key
Scenic Artists.....	Akira Ballew, Katelyn Boozer, Wyatt Cornelli, Edith Davis, Sabrina Dombrowski, Justice Fulks, El Hataway, Tywan Hill, Calcifer Jackson, Quenell James, Devin Knight, Semajé Newton, Lydia Roan, Brayden Turner, and Tèa Wilson
Carpenters .....	El Hataway, Tywan Hill, Quenell James, and Tèa Wilson
Master Electrician.....	John Davis
Electricians.....	Liesl Cristy, Ryan Godfrey, El Hataway, Sa'Mitra Hill, Devin Knight, Eli Sims, Tèa Wilson and Addie Zaner
Audio Technician.....	Kylie Sargent
Fly Operator.....	Elliot Ford
Light Board Operator .....	Liesl Cristy
Sound Board Operator.....	Alauna Fowler
Stagehands .....	Sabrina Dombrowski and Elliot Ford
Box Office Manager.,.....	Lora Spivey

# Cast Members



Justice Fulks



Jacob Cushing



Quenell James



Aaliyah Boone



Wyatt Cornelius



Edith Davis



Ryan Godfrey



Adrianna Green



Sa'Mitra Hill



Tywan Hill



Devin Knight



JaLisiah Mosley

# Cast Members



Semajé Newton



Eli Sims



Alexis Stanfield



Brayden Turner



James Watkins



Molly Willingham



Téa Wilson



Stanton Yarboro

# Who's Who in the Cast

JUSTICE FULKS (Young Woman) is a junior at JSU with a major in Theatre Performance and a minor in Forensic Science. She has been lucky enough to appear in the productions of *Noises Off* (Poppy Norton-Taylor) and *The Winter's Tale* (Perdita/Emilia). Justice loves acting and wants to do many more shows at JSU. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!

JACOB CUSHING (Mr. Jones) is a transfer to the JSU theatre program and has lots of experiences playing a variety of characters and doing character voices. He also sings and dances, and has performed in one musical, *Murder at Crimson House*. He has enjoyed meeting his new cast members and working in rehearsals.

QUENELL JAMES (Young Man) is a junior at JSU

majoring in Theatre Performance. This is his third performance at JSU. Previously, Quenell played Creon in *Medea* and Lloyd in *Noises Off*. He was also in the CAST production of *Puffs* as J. Finch Fletchley. He has also worked backstage in *As You Like It* on the fly rail and has helped in the scene shop on many shows.

AALIYAH BOONE (Girlfriend, Court Clerk) is a senior Theatre Performance major at Jax State. She is excited for the opportunity to be a part of this show. Last fall, Aaliyah performed as Silvius in *As You Like It*. After she graduates, Aaliyah plans to continue her education in a Theatre master's degree program.

WYATT CORNELIUS (Filing Clerk 1, Man, Bailiff) has been acting since his

# Who's Who in the Cast

junior year of high school, and after performing in many different shows, decided that acting is what he wants to do with his life. After school, Wyatt continued his path of acting by majoring in Theatre and Performing Arts. His first show at JSU was *Medea* where he played the villainous role of Jason. That performance was what he needed to remind him how much fun he has when on stage. Wyatt's professor and director, Carolyn Conover, is such a fantastic and easy person to work with and learn from, and everyone in the department is so nice and fun. He hopes he can continue to work with this wonderful crew for the remainder of his time at JSU.

EDITH DAVIS (Adding Clerk, 2nd Reporter) is a Jax State junior majoring in Secondary Education

with a focus in ELA. Edith is also member of JSU's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega. She previously performed in APO's production of *Medea* and in the 2022 and 2023 Directing Showcases. Edith is very excited to perform for you today, and hopes you enjoy the show!

RYAN GODFREY (Child, Lawyer for the Defense) is a freshman who is absolutely thrilled to be in their very first JSU Theatre Production!! In the past, they have performed as Ado Annie in *Oklahoma!*, Smee in *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and even originated a role in their high school's adaptation of *The Gift of the Magi*. Ryan has loved every minute of work with this wonderful cast and crew. They would like to shout out to their family & incredible director, as well as their friends who have

## Who's Who in the Cast

been immensely supportive (especially those who ran lines with them)! This show has helped them really find community in Jacksonville, so they hope you enjoy it as much as they have loved being a part of it!

**ADRIANNA GREEN** (Woman 2, Waiter, Barber) is a sophomore at Jax State majoring in Theatre Performance with a minor in Art. This is her second show with Jax State production. Her first appearance was in the APO rendition of *Medea*. She has also helped with the behind-the-scenes of both *Medea* and *Noises Off*. She hopes to be in more productions and is excited to see what the future holds for her while enjoying her time working with APO and Jax State. Adrianna plans to continue working in theatre throughout the

summer. She is excited to see what she can accomplish in her career!

**SA'MITRA HILL** (Telephone Girl 1) is a JSU freshman making her debut in her first college show. She previously attended Booker T. Washington Magnet High School in Montgomery, Alabama, in the Musical Theatre Magnet, where she did a multitude of shows and various showcases. Her two favorite shows and roles being *Little shop of Horrors* (Audrey II) and *Julius Caesar* (Cassius). Sa'Mitra would like to thank all of her directors, former and current, for their constant belief in her.

**TYWAN HILL** (Filing Clerk 2, Lawyer for the Prosecution) is a JSU sophomore majoring in Theatre with a Performance concentration. He is very

## Who's Who in the Cast

excited to be performing in his first show at JSU. He also has experience working on scenic construction in JSU's production of *Noises Off*. "Life gets hard, but you must keep pushing. Eventually you will shove your way through the hard times and live life in the good."

DEVIN KNIGHT (Husband 2, Date) is a Junior at Jax State majoring in Social Work with a minor in Theatre. He performed in JSU's production of *Spring Awakening* last year and has also performed in *Rent*, *Big Fish*, and *Beauty and The Beast* with CAST. Devin is excited for all of you to see this show, and he is also thankful for his family and friends for always supporting him.

JALISIAH MOSLEY (Young Woman's Mother) is a Theatre major with a

performance focus at Jax State. *Machinal* is her first show, and she is excited to have this play be her first.

SEMAJÉ NEWTON (Nurse 1, Jailor) is a senior at Jacksonville State University. She is a Theatre Performance Major and is grateful to have been a part of the cast in *Machinal*. She is thankful for this opportunity as it challenges her skills and knowledge. Semajé has also been seen in other JSU productions such as Jacques in *As You Like It*, Ilse in *Spring Awakening*, and Louise in *Alison's House*. Also, earlier this summer, Semajé played the role of Pearl in *The Sponge Bob Musical* at Crossroads Repertory Theatre in Indiana. Semajé would like to thank the director, cast, and crew for giving her a wonderful experience!

## Who's Who in the Cast

ELI SIMS (Boyfriend, Judge) is thrilled to be part of his first show at JSU! A Tuscaloosa native, Eli is a freshman Theatre major with a concentration in Performance. Some of his favorite past credits include Quasimodo in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, Horton in *Seussical the Musical*, The Audrey II Puppeteer in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Walter Hobbs in *Elf the Musical*. Eli would like to thank Carolyn for this incredible opportunity, his parents, as well as Katie, Nick, and Shelby for everything they have done to help him to get to this point. Thank you for supporting live theatre. Philippians 4:13.

ALEXIS STANFIELD (telephone girl 2, 3rd Reporter) is a junior Theatre major with a Performance concentration and an Art

minor at Jax State. She played Brooke/Vicki in JSU's production of *Noises Off* this past spring, as well as Medea in APO's production of *Medea*. She played Adam and Audrey in JSU's production of *As You Like It* last fall. During her freshman year, she played M2 in APO's production of *The Iliad, The Odyssey and All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less* and she was the playback operator for JSU's production of *Spring Awakening*. She has had so much fun during this process with this wonderful cast, and she wants to thank the cast, crew, and director for the honor of being able to help tell this important story.

BRAYDEN TURNER (Doctor, Man 1) is a senior at Jax State and hopes to become a high school teacher. He has spent a



## Who's Who in the Cast

great portion of his life in the theatre, making memories with casts and crews. You might remember seeing him as Hanschen in *Spring Awakening* as well as The Tutor in *Medea*. He was also vital backstage for *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and *All of Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*. He hopes you enjoy his performance.

JAMES WATKINS (Priest) is honored to be making his JSU stage debut alongside so many talented theatre majors, both behind the scenes and under the lights. His previous appearances were on the stages of Los Angeles, with roles in original plays you've never heard of and a few you may have heard of: *Lone Star*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Trip to Bountiful*, *Catch-22* and *Taking Sides*. Thank you for the opportunity, Impresario Conover.

MOLLY WILLINGHAM (Mom 2, Singer) is a freshman at Jax State, and she is so thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of her first college production! Molly considers swing and jazz standard music as part of her warehouse, so she is extremely grateful to be the vocalist for this impactful show. A few of her favorite credits include Aunt Eller, *Oklahoma!*, Dowager Empress, *Anastasia*, Mrs. Potts, *Beauty and the Beast* and Penelope Pennywise, *Urinetown*. Molly wants to shout out the Dallas Theatre in Dallas Georgia, where she has performing since she was 7, and now she is getting to teach some incredible young actors there. Fun fact: Molly's favorite artist from the jazz period is Rosemary Clooney!

## Who's Who in the Cast

TÉA WILSON

(Stenographer, 4th Reporter, Guard) is a senior at Jacksonville State University with a major in Theatre and a concentration in Performance. She, as well as many others, have worked endlessly as an ensemble to make this creepy “machine” come to life. Tèa not only has a role in the ensemble, but also plays the stenographer in the opening scene. She hopes you “aren’t late” and will enjoy the show.

of *Machinal* as her last performance as an undergrad and would like to thank the faculty, staff, and students for helping her through these wonderful years. She hopes you enjoy the show.



STANTON YARBORO  
(Nurse 2, Wife 2, 1st Reporter) is a Senior majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Performance and minoring in Communications. Some of her JSU Theatre and Film mainstage credits include *Noises Off*, *As You Like It* and *Spring Awakening*. She is thrilled to be a part



# Artistic Team



Carolyn  
Conover



Alli Angel



Randy Blades



John Davis



El Hataway



Skylee  
Vaughn



Alison  
Woodward



Addie Zaner

## Artistic Team

CAROLYN CONOVER (Director) is Assistant Professor of Acting and Directing at JSU and teaches Acting, Directing, Voice for the Stage, Play Analysis, Improv, and Intro to Theatre. She received her MA in Drama from Indiana State University and her MFA in Acting from Michigan State University. Her book, *The Introverted Actor* (Palgrave, 2020) was nominated for Outstanding Book of the Year by The Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Carolyn is an Intimacy Choreographer, and an Artistic Mental Health Practitioner through the Association of Mental Health Coordinators, a role which focuses on helping actors safely navigate and simulate traumatic content for live theatre.

ALLI ANGEL (Lighting Director) is a JSU alumna

with a B.A. in Theatre Production with a concentration in Lighting Design and a M.S.Ed in Secondary English Education. She currently teaches 9th and 10th grade English at Childersburg High School (Go Tigers!). Alli loves how both theater and literature help people connect through stories. Whether she's teaching a novel in class or designing lighting for a show, she enjoys helping others see the power of storytelling. A few of her past credits include *The Imaginary Invalid*, *The Great Gatsby*, *Alison's House* (as Lighting Designer), *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Company* (as Asst. Lighting Designer), *My Fair Lady*, and *Carmen* (as Master Electrician).

RANDY BLADES (Sound Designer) is a professor of Costume Design and Technology with extra

## Artistic Team

interest in sound design and technology. He has designed sound for several productions for the Theatre and Film Department including *The Tempest*, *The Mousetrap*, *These Shining Lives*, and *To Tread Among Serpents*. He is also the editor and live show engineer for *The Strange South* podcast.

JOHN 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 and

The Lost Colony, as well as numerous production credits through union and other private contracts across the Southeast. He is grateful every day for the support of his wonderful wife and the exercise he gets from his four feisty working dogs.

EL HATAWAY (Stage Manager) is a Jax State Senior majoring in Theatre with a Production Concentration. They are so thrilled that they have the opportunity to Stage Manage this show. They have ASM'd on *Spring Awakening* and *Iliad* and SM's *As You Like It* last fall. Their past two summers have been spent in Utah at Tuacahn Center for the Arts working on the scenic and props teams, respectively. After graduation in December, they hope to go wherever the industry takes them. "Tell people you love them before you can't

## Artistic Team

anymore. You never know who needs it.”

LYDIA ROAN (Dramaturg) is a Sophomore Computer Science major with a Performance minor at Jax State, and they are so excited to be an assistant Stage Manager and Dramaturg for this show. They have been on wardrobe crew for *As You Like It*, played The Nurse in *Medea*, and been a scenic carpenter and on run crew for *Noises Off!* They plan to work on more productions in the future and cannot wait to show the audience what the company has been working on this semester.

SKYLEE VAUGHN (Costume and Makeup Designer) is a senior Theatre Production Major at Jax State. Her previous credits at Jax State

include Assistant Stage Manager for *Noises Off*, Scenic Designer for Alpha Psi Omega’s production of *Medea*, Associate Costume Designer for *As You Like It* and Costume Properties Artisan for *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey* and all of *Greek Mythology in 99 Minutes or Less*. Skylee is the President of Alpha Psi Omega. She is very grateful to both Alpha Psi Omega and the department for providing the opportunities for her to grow as both a person and as a professional. She would also like to thank her family and friends for supporting her and pushing her to bigger challenges.

ALLISON WOODWARD (Choreographer) is an award-winning dancer, choreographer and teacher who has been on

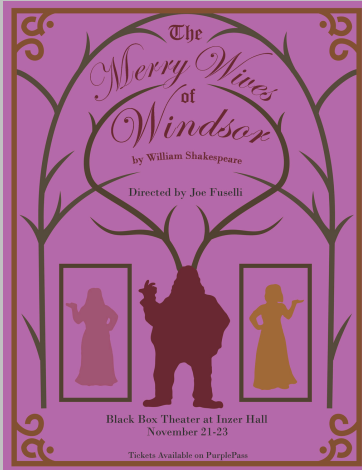
## Artistic Team

staff at JSU for the last 12 years. Choreographing for the Theatre and Film Department, Jacksonville Lyric Theatre and Encore!, JSU's Show Choir. Alison's passion is to train performers of high character and talent. Her dance studio, Crazy About Dance, in Alexandria, AL does so through core classes, competition teams, and intensive training. Her recent adventure with CAPA resulted in a Choreography Award and a Judge's Award for her work on *Oklahoma!* at the AYTE Festival. A few of her favorite works have been *Phantom of the Opera*, *Little Women*, and *Spring Awakening*. Alison is excited to be working with Carolyn Conover again on this new project, *Machinal*, by adding some interesting movement to this story. Alison loves when her

daughters, Olivia and Jillian, also get to be a part of the project from time to time and is thankful that her husband, James, is supportive of all of the craziness.

ADDIE ZANER (Scenic Designer) is a graduate of JSU with her B.A. in Theatre (Production). Other credits with this program include Associate Scenic Designer for *As You Like It* and *Spring Awakening*, as well as Assistant Scenic Designer for *Boy Gets Girl* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Addie also just finished a summer with Utah Shakespeare Festival as their Props Apprentice/Run Crew for their 2024 season. Addie would like to thank her friends, family and fiancé for their continued support of her art throughout the years!

# Upcoming Events



**Auditions!**  
**25th Annual Putnam County  
Spelling Bee- The Musical**  
**January 21 & 22, 2025**  
**@ 6:00 pm**  
**Stone Center Ward Theatre**

**JAX  
STATE**  
Jacksonville State University  
THEATRE & FILM  
**STUDENT  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2025**  
April 12, 2025



**THEATRE & FILM**  
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY