



# PURPLE MASQUE THEATRE PRESENTS

ILLUSIONS OF  
HOPE AND DESPAIR

THE UPS AND  
DOWNS OF TOM

Two Original One-Act Plays

*Illusions of Hope and Despair* written by Jared Adams    *The Ups and Downs of Tom* written by Conrad Schmechel

**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

School of Music,  
Theatre, and Dance

K-STATE THEATRE PRESENTS  
**ORIGINAL ONE ACTS**

THE UPS AND DOWNS  
OF TOM

BY CONRAD SCHMECHEL

Director  
**Karly Breshears**

Lighting Designer  
**Brett Boline**

Stage Manager  
**Molly Reilly**

ILLUSIONS OF HOPE  
AND DESPAIR

BY JARED ADAMS

Director  
**Conrad Schmechel**

Sound Designer  
**Elizabeth Smith**

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**UPS AND DOWNS CAST**

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Tom ..... **Jyck Green**  
Lexi ..... **Lindsey Edwards**  
Claudette ..... **Hanna Cavely**  
Dan ..... **Cooper Mills**  
Emily/Woman ..... **Karlana Colon**  
Man ..... **Clever Christman**

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**ILLUSIONS CAST**

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Tyler (Thursday and Saturday) ..... **Joel Wood**  
Tyler (Friday and Sunday) ..... **Nathan Pickands**  
Kimberly ..... **Nikela Reed**  
Brandon ..... **Armando Alicea-Perez**  
Susan ..... **Heather Bigwood**  
Sandra/Memaw ..... **Ana Vasquez**  
William ..... **Francis Sheehan**  
Emily ..... **Paige Daniels**

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Made possible in part with funding from the Student Government Association (SGA)

There will be a 10-minute intermission between the shows.

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Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices.

Texting, recording, and photography of any kind are prohibited.

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# PRODUCTION

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Scene Shop Supervisor ..... **George Wame Matthews**  
Costume Shop Manager..... **Melissa Neville**  
House Managers.....**Jared Adams, Elizabeth Kritikos**  
Box Office Staff..... **Nikela Reed, Amanda Sasser**  
Wardrobe Supervisor.....**Alexandra Shine**

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## PRODUCTION ADVISORS

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Directing Advisors.....**Sally Bailey, Jerry Jay Cranford**  
Scenic Design Advisor.....**Kathy Voecks**  
Costume Design Advisor..... **Dana Pinkston**  
Sound and Light Advisor.....**James K. Davis**  
Technical Advisor..... **Ben Stark**  
Stage Manager Supervisor..... **James K. Davis**  
Academic Advisor.....**Shannon Skelton**

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## RUN CREW

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Light Board Operator.....**Maryam Kazemidemneh**  
Sound Board Operator.....**Elizabeth Smith**  
Wardrobe Crew..... **Sam McGehee, Chris Watson**

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## ILLUSIONS DIRECTOR'S NOTES

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Thank you for coming to today's performance. It has been an honor to have this incredible opportunity to help tell these stories depicting the realities of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. I trust that they can not only help spread awareness of these diagnoses, but also plant seeds of inspiration and courage. We are all touched by mental health disorders, be it first-hand, or through a loved one, or perhaps a colleague or classmate.

Most of my life, I have kept my own disorders, bipolar disorder and ADHD, hidden out of fear of rejection and judgment. This process has invigorated me to be more open, and if it helps others feel more seen or heard, then I feel we have succeeded in our mission as storytellers. The stigma associated with mental health disorders is still prevalent in our society. I hope that our coming together today can be a positive step towards chipping away at that stigma, replacing it with empathy, understanding, and a call to action

I would like to express my thanks to the National Alliance of Mental Health (NAMI) for their overwhelming support. I would also like to thank our theatre and drama therapy professors for their instrumental help throughout this process. Additionally, I would like to give out thanks to our actors and production personnel; you have all been a joy to work with and your hard work is an inspiration to witness.

Lastly, many thanks to my friends, family, and my beautiful wife - I appreciate you all so much!

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# UPS AND DOWNS OF TOM CAST BIOS

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**Hanna Cavely** (Claudette ) is a junior studying anthropology with a minor in theatre. She wants to give a special thanks to the cast and crew for their support throughout the run! This is one of her first ever production on stage and she's very excited to a part of this program.

**Clever Christman** (Man) is a freshman at K-State and is majoring in theatre. This show emphasizes something so important yet so neglected by society and the cast couldn't be more happy to share the message of the play.

**Karlana Colon** (Emily/Woman) is a freshman majoring in Theatre and Dance and Human Life. Karlana is so thankful and proud of the cast and this show and can't wait for people to see it and learn more about Bipolar Disorder and the way it affects everyday life.

**Lindsey Edwards** (Lexi) is a junior studying theatre and psychology with a minor in leadership studies. Her previous shows at K-State include *Bright Ideas*, *Leave No Trace*, *Return to Abandoned*, and *Hate the Player*. She would like to thank God, her friends, family, and her dogs for all of their support.

**Jyck Green** (Tom) is a theatre major in their sophomore year here at KSU, they are thrilled to show you such an important show and hopes you are able to understand Bipolar Disorder a little more. They would like to thank everyone who supports them and the cast for being awesome.

**Cooper Mills** (Dan) is a theatre major and is currently in his junior year at K-State. He is proud to have worked with a great cast and director on this show. He'd like to thank his friends and family for all their support! Enjoy the show!

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## ILLUSIONS OF HOPE AND DESPAIR CAST BIOS

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**Armando Alicea-Perez** (Brandon) was born in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and he moved here when he was six. He experimented with theatre in middle school and ever since, he was hooked. He took classes and participated in theatre for about five years now and he plans on continuing theatre for many years to come.

**Heather Bigwood** (Susan) is again thrilled to be performing with K-State Theatre. She last performed for K-State in *One Dead, One Dying* Fall 2020 as Ma Young. Heather can be seen as Nurse Rebecca Duckworth in the upcoming small budget film *Letters Home*, to be released next year. Heather is a junior here at K-State majoring in history. She is usually seen participating in living history in various eras as time allows. She hopes that both of this evening's productions will help humanize the sufferers of mental illness and decrease the stigma mental illness has in society. She thanks Jared Adams for creating such a masterpiece.

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# ILLUSIONS CAST BIOS CONTINUED

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**Paige Daniels** (Emily) has been performing since she was eight and is overjoyed to join the cast of *Illusions of Hope and Despair*. She is a drama therapy graduate student and received a bachelors degree in psychology from The College of St. Benedict's/ St. John's University. She would like to thank her friends, family and the cast for supporting her every step of the way.

**Nathan Pickands** (Tyler [Friday and Sunday]) is a sophomore theatre major at K-State. He has been heavily involved in theatre since 8th grade and is aspiring to become a voice actor. He was the thespian president at MHS his senior year, and has performed in such roles as John Proctor in *The Crucible*, Mr. Burns in *Mr Burns, A Post-Electric Play*, and Miles in *She Kills Monsters*.

**Nikela Reed** (Kimberly) are a sophomore theatre major from Kansas City, Missouri. She is proud to accept her position as Ebony Theatre's president for the 2021-22 academic year.

**Francis Sheehan** (William) is a sophomore theatre major at K-State and is excited to be a part of this brand-new show. He was called in last-minute to replace the original William and he is incredibly happy that he has been able to meet and act across from the wonderful cast of *Illusions*. You may recognize him from *Working* and his voice from *One Dead, One Dying*, or you may have never seen nor heard about him. He would like to thank his parents and his partner Matt for all the love and support.

**Ana Vasquez** (Memaw) is a sophomore majoring in theatre and Spanish. This will be her first live production at Kansas State University. She has been in other shows such as *Haunted Hamlet* as Romeo, *Guys and Dolls* as Benny Southstreet, and other shows such as *The Wiz* and *Sister Act* to which she was a cop in both. She would like to thank everyone who has supported her along the way, those that chose her for this role, and all the listeners supporting Kansas State Theatre!

**Joel Wood** (Tyler [Thursday and Saturday]) is a freshman construction management science engineering major with a passion for theater. This is Joel's debut show here at Kansas State University; but he is no stranger to the stage. He has been a citizen of the theater world for the last 13 years of his life; and was a Cappie nominee for Best Featured Actor for the DC Maryland area back in 2018. On top of acting he loves writing poetry, sports, working, and most of all building; thus the drive to construction management. Joel would like to give a special thanks to the playwright, director, and production team for giving him this opportunity. He would also like to give a thanks to his family who helped counsel him in whether or not he should continue acting.

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# SURVEYS AND RESEARCH

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**Conrad Schmechel**, director of *Illusions of Hope and Despair* and graduate student in Drama Therapy, is doing audience research to see if these plays can help people understand mental illness better. If you would like to participate in the pre and/or post show surveys, please see an usher. Surveys may be left under your seat after the show.

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## POST SHOW TALKBACKS

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Following a short break for completion of an optional post-show survey, audience members are encouraged to stay for a 20 minute talkback on topics and questions related to mental health.

Guests for each performance are listed below. Sally Bailey, Professor of Drama Therapy and head of the Graduate Program will moderate the events.

### Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

**Kathy Bilbrey** – Treasurer, Recovery Harbor

**Melissa Briggs** – Assistant Professor, Drama Therapy, Kansas State University

**Billy Henson** – Peer Support Specialist, Morning Star, Inc. CRO

### Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>

**Kathy Bilbrey** – Treasurer, Recovery Harbor

**Art Summers** – Affiliate Development Specialist, NAMI Hays

**Regina Anderson** – Executive Director, NAMI Hays

**Kathy Pennell** – Affiliate Development Specialist, NAMI Flint Hills

### Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

**Richard Stitt** – Co-Director, Morning Star, Inc. CRO

**Quincy Bocquin** – Helpline and Family Program Director, NAMI Kansas

**Kathy Pennell** – Affiliate Development Specialist, NAMI Flint Hills

**Angela Chapes** – PLC Representative, NAMI Flint Hills

### Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

**Kathy Pennell** - Affiliate Development Specialist, NAMI Flint Hills

**Dantia MacDonald** – Co-President, Morning Star, Inc. CRO

**Melissa Briggs** – Assistant Professor, Drama Therapy, Kansas State University

**R.A. McMillin-Beckman** - Benefit Specialist, SOAR Local Lead, Pawnee  
Mental Health Services



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The School of Music, Theatre, and Dance offers an average of \$725,000 annually in undergraduate and graduate scholarships and student support. These funds support MTD majors, minors, and non-majors to participate in our programs and lower the costs of higher education. The arts are critical now more than ever. Your generosity is necessary to....

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TODAY**

# K-STATE THEATRE & DANCE 2021 - 2022 SEASON

Tickets: [k-state.edu/mtd/tickets](http://k-state.edu/mtd/tickets) 785-236-8638

## Working the Musical

From the book by Studs Terkel  
Adapted by Stephen Schwartz and Nina Faso  
With additional contributions by Gordon Greenberg  
Songs by Craig Carnelia, Micki Grant,  
Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mary Rodgers,  
Susan Birkenhead, Stephen Schwartz, and James Taylor

Sept 30- Oct 3  
Oct 7-10

Chapman Theater in Nichols Hall

## Sweat

By Lynn Nottage

February 3-6  
February 10-13

Chapman Theater in Nichols Hall

## Elisir d'Amore (Elixir of Love)

By Gaetano Donizetti

Translated by Ruth and Thomas Martin

March 4-6

McCain Auditorium

## Frankenstein

By Mary Shelley, adapted by Austin Tichenor

October 28-31  
November 4-7

Chapman Theater in Nichols Hall

## Spring Dance Concert '22

Choreographed by K-State  
Faculty and Students

April 1-2

McCain Auditorium

## Nut/Cracked & Other Delights (Dance)

Nut/Cracked by David Parker  
Other Delights by K-State Faculty

December 3-5

Chapman Theater in Nichols Hall

## The Imaginary Invalid

By Molière, adapted by David Mackay

April 21-24  
April 28-May 1

Chapman Theatre  
in Nichols Hall

## SECOND STAGE

### Crooked

By Catherine Trieschmann

Oct 14-17

Purple Masque Theatre in  
West Memorial Stadium

### Illusions of Hope and Despair & The Ups and Downs of Tom

Illusions of Hope and Despair by Jared Adams  
The Ups and Downs of Tom by Conrad Schmechel

Nov 11-14

Purple Masque Theatre in  
West Memorial Stadium

### Lunchbag Theatre

Organized By Jerry Jay Cranford

April 8

Purple Masque Theatre in  
West Memorial Stadium

### Musical Review

Organized By Jerry Jay Cranford

April 9

Purple Masque Theatre in  
West Memorial Stadium

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*Coco Bolos*