

THE WOLVES

A black and white soccer ball is shown hitting a white goal net. The ball is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image, with the net's strings visible behind it. The background is a solid red color.

A WORKSHOP PRODUCTION

OCTOBER 23-25 (7:30 PM)

OCTOBER 25 (2:00 PM)

GARMANY HALL (AAC)

AUSTIN
ARTS
CENTER
AT TRINITY COLLEGE

The Department of Theater and Dance presents

THE WOLVES

A WORKSHOP PRODUCTION

PLAY BY SARAH DELAPPE

DIRECTED BY KRISTEN MORIARTY

STAGE MANAGEMENT BY BRAYDEN ESLER '27

COSTUME DESIGN BY ELINA KHINDOVA '27

SOUND DESIGN BY THE WOLVES COMPANY

PRODUCTION DESIGN BY MICHAEL LENAGHAN

*"The Wolves" is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.
www.concordtheatricals.com.*

THE WOLVES CAST

#11	Mari Mendoza
#25	Steven Shen
#13	Fariba Nazanin Shah
#46	Lily Mellitz
#2	Abigail Gomes
#7.....	Ava Foley
#14	Kenna Harrison
#8	Gillian Wiles
#00	Jade Mellitz
Soccer Mom	Kenna Harrison
Swing	Kelly Asefa

Setting: An indoor soccer field somewhere in suburban America. Winter. Saturdays.

Please be advised that this performance touches on teen pregnancy, abortion, eating disorders, genocide, immigration, and death, and contains potentially offensive language.

Also, please be aware of flying soccer ball!

“The Wolves” will run for approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

If you must leave your seat during the performance, please be aware that actors will be using the theatre entrance throughout the show.

We invite you to join us for an opening night reception following the performance on Thursday, October 23.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

What you are about to see is an experiment. As artists, we enter into the experiment of theater making much like scientists—seeking an answer by utilizing resources, knowledge, instinct, and different variables.

Our workshop production of *The Wolves* rehearsed for roughly a third of the hours of a “typical” production. With that variable, the focus of our laboratory time centered on relationships, listening, connection, and storytelling; elements of a fully realized production like memorizing lines and more developed blocking, lighting, set, and sound designs fell away. What you will see is a creative undertaking that is still in process. With each rehearsal, we discover new things about the story, the characters, and ourselves.

Sometimes experiments yield results we hoped for and other times they don't, but we always have more information than we did before the experiment happened. At the very least, we discover something that didn't work and are thereby that much closer to finding something that does. I think adolescence is much the same.

The young women in this play are learning about, talking about, and experimenting with world events, sexuality, authority, relationship dynamics, and themselves. You, the audience, have the privilege to peek in on the secret lives of teenage girls on the brink of becoming women.

I believe our society has a responsibility to young people today, to respect and acknowledge them fully in this beautifully complex stage of life. These young people also need guidance and support as they transition through the final stages of childhood. With one foot over the threshold into adulthood, these young people move through the world with bodies

that are full-grown, minds that are encountering mature topics and experiences, and hearts that are loving and breaking in new ways, and still, at times, want to abandon the same maturity they're seeking for the fanciful freedom of childhood.

Today we introduce a new variable to our experiment—you. Having you in the room changes the experiment, and we're so grateful you are here. The audience has a direct impact on the actors and the story they tell. It is my deep hope that the stories of these fictional young women, as told by actual young adults, will have a direct impact on you, the audience, as well.

Kristen Moriarty, she/her

Director of *The Wolves*, former teenage girl, and Mom of two magnificent and brilliant pre-teen daughters

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Graham for carrying more than your share, Onora and Liadan for making the best of it; Head Coach Rachael Schroeder and the Trinity Women's Soccer Team for welcoming us to their practices; the entire Theater/Dance Department faculty and staff, the custodial staff of the AAC, the costume shop assistants, Box Office/Front of House, Margo for always answering the call; Michelle for listening and guidance; Deb for steering the ship with prowess and grace; Rebecca for stalwart support and collaboration; Mike for keeping the ball moving toward the goal with affability and cohesion; Brayden for diving in with joy and professionalism; Elina for attention to detail, open willingness, and flexibility; Kelly for jumping in and out, wearing many hats, and adding your creative spirit to our team; and to the acting company—thank you for bringing these girls and their stories to life, and for leaning in to the unknown, to each other, and to this beautiful, heartbreaking, hilarious, and, at times, unconventional creative process.

ABOUT THE CAST

Kelly Asefa '25 (Swing) This is Kelly's first time serving as an understudy for all the actors. She brings a deep passion for storytelling and performance, complemented by her strong interest in fashion and style.

Ava Foley '26 (#7) is a senior at Trinity majoring in Art History. This is her first production with Trinity College!

Abigail Gomes '28 (#2) is very excited for the role of #2 in *The Wolves*! Abby is from Wallingford, CT, and is planning to double major in Music and Computer Science. She has previously taken on roles such as Kelsi Nielsen in *High School Musical*, Mother Abbess in *Sound of Music*, and Scratchy in *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*. On campus, she is a part of Musical Theatre Club, Chapel Singers, and the Trinity Pipes. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support, everyone in the cast for being a fun and inspiring group, and our director Kristen for her dedication and thoughtfulness throughout the creative process.

Kenna Harrison '26 (#14/ Soccer Mom) is a senior double majoring in Theater & Dance and Political Science. Some of her previous roles and productions have been *Into the Woods* (Jack), Trinity's 2025 production of *Mr. Burns* (dance ensemble), and a staged reading of new musical *STILL* by Marcia Gomes this summer. Kenna hopes it isn't too obvious that she never played soccer as a child, and she hopes that you enjoy the show!

Jade Mellitz '26 (#00) is a Studio Arts major passionate about the intersection of movement and form, taking classes in the Theater and Dance Department to deepen her exploration of performance and space. This is Jade's fifth Trinity production: *Mr Burns, A Post-Electric Play* (2025), *JOY!* (2023), *Cinderella* (2024), *Spring Performance Mix soloist* (2025). Favorite past productions include *The Nutcracker Ballet* (Shubert Theater, New Haven), *We've Got It All* (2018) and *Wicked: The Parody* (2017). Jade is Vice President for Students for Accessibility and the Musical Theater Clubs on campus. Jade thanks her parents, twin sister Lily, God, her family, friends, and the amazing director, cast, and crew!

Lily Mellitz '26 (#46), adopted from Xi'an, China and raised in Guilford, CT, is a Theater and Dance major with a Classical Tradition minor. Passionate about dance, scriptwriting, and choreographing, she has performed in productions such as Trinity's *Cinderella*, *JOY*, *Baltimore*, and *Mr. Burns*. On campus, Lily is a member of the Honor Council, President of Students for Accessibility, Executive Features Editor for *The Tripod*, Social Relations Chair for Musical Theater Club, and an Admissions Student Recruitment Ambassador. Lily thanks God, her parents, her friends and family, her Trinity community, and her twin sister Jade.

Mari Mendoza '26 (#11) is from Queens, NY and is a senior majoring in Anthropology with a minor in Community Action. Their previous acting experience includes: Rachel in the Trinity production, *Baltimore*; Ana in *Untold and Undocumented* at the Youth Play Institute of HartBeat Ensemble; Mary Wallace in *Athena* and "C" in *Know the Downbeat/Lover's Lane* at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. Mari works in the Trinity College Chapel as an Acolyte and hopes to use her voice to uplift other marginalized creators in the arts.

Fariba Nazanin Shah '28 (#13) is a sophomore double majoring in Environmental Science and Applied Math. She has never acted before. In her free time she enjoys napping, MATLAB, ping-pong, reading, and badminton. On campus, she's involved with CHER, research lab, and being an RA.

Steven Shen '26 (#25) is a senior, and this is his 5th production at Trinity College. Other performances include: ensemble member in *Futurity*, the defendant lawyer in *Machinal*, and Sebastian in *Cinderella*. He is excited to play a role he has never played before and show versatile performance. Enjoy the show!

Gillian Wiles '29 (#8) is a freshman who is trying to major in engineering and philosophy; this is her first production at Trinity and hopefully not her last. She is also a member of the cheer team and really likes cheese, fashion, and nature walks.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Sarah DeLappe (playwright) is a playwright, screenwriter, and television writer. Sarah DeLappe's play *The Wolves* (Pulitzer Prize finalist; Lortel, Outer Critics Circle nominations for Best Play/Emerging Playwright; Relentless Award, Sky Cooper New American Play Prize; Susan Smith Blackburn and Yale Prize finalist) premiered at The Playwrights Realm, following an engagement with New York Stage and Film, and development with Clubbed Thumb. Upcoming production at Lincoln Center Theater. Fellowships and developmental support include The MacDowell Colony, The Ground Floor, LCT3 Playwright in Residence, Ars Nova Play Group, Page One Fellowship at The Playwrights Realm, SPACE on Ryder Farm, and Sitka Fellows Program. MFA: Brooklyn College.

Brayden Esler '27 (Stage Manager) is a junior double majoring in Theatre & Dance and Psychology. He has performed in over 40 theater and musical theater productions throughout Connecticut and New York City. Some of his favorite prior roles include Emmett Forrest (*Legally Blonde*), Mark Cohen (*Rent*), Marius (*Les Misérables*), Bart Simpson (*Mr. Burns*), Tobias (*Sweeney Todd*), Billy Elliot (*Billy Elliot*), and Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). Brayden is also involved with The Pipes a cappella group on campus.

Elina Khindova '27 (Costume Designer) is a junior majoring in Art History with a minor in Writing, Rhetoric, and Media Studies. She studied fashion design in Moscow and has worked in the AAC costume shop since her first year at Trinity. *The Wolves* is her first time designing for a production, and she's excited to explore the story and characters through costume, combining her love of pop culture and visual storytelling.

Michael Lenaghan (Production Designer) is thrilled to serve as the new Director of Production at Austin Arts Center! Mike has spent the last 4 years as Director of Production at TheaterWorks Hartford, his second stint with the theater. Prior to 2022, Mike spent eight years

teaching Set Design and Production at Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, where he pioneered their curriculum in that discipline. Mike's first stint at TheaterWorks began in 2004 with 10 Unknowns and concluded in 2014 with The Other Place. All told, Mike has realized over 70 productions at TheaterWorks from "sticks to sets." Mike's professional credits include Goodspeed Musicals, Juilliard School Production Department, Technical Director with Downtown Cabaret Theater, The Joyce Theater and four seasons with Westport Playhouse. Broadway production credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie, Our Town, Swing and Fortune's Fool. Off Broadway: The It Girl, Suburb and The Summer of '42.

Kristen Moriarty, she/her (Director, Visiting Lecturer in Theater/Dance). Kristen is a multi-hyphenate theater professional whose experience encompasses acting, voice work, directing, private coaching, and teaching. After teaching The Expressive Voice at Trinity last fall, she is delighted to return to direct The Wolves and looks forward to offering The Expressive Voice again this coming spring. Credits: Shakespeare & Company (company artist) Vitalist Theatre (contributing artist), Toy Boat Theatre (contributing artist), Lifeline Theatre, Greasy Joan & Co., Emerald City Theatre, Attic Playhouse, Elsewhere Shakespeare, Montana Repertory Theatre, Montana Actors Theatre, Classic Theatre Co., Tacoma Little Theatre, Philipsburg Theatre. MFA, Acting: University of Montana; BFA, Acting/Dance: Adelphi University. In addition to her collegiate training, Kristen has spent more than a decade training with Shakespeare & Company's Center for Actor Training where she is also a member of the Faculty. She is also working towards becoming a Designated Linklater Teacher. Kristen has taught on the faculty or as a guest artist at the University of Connecticut, University of Montana, Seattle University, University of Washington-Tacoma, Adelphi University, and San Jose State University. Kristen lives in Lenox, Mass. with her husband and their two daughters. There, she lives out the best roles ever as Wife and Mom.

MORE PRODUCTION TEAM MEMBERS

Light Board Operator	Brayden Esler '27
Sound Board Operator	Orfeas Spyraiki '28
Wardrobe Crew	Sofia Aponasenko '27
	Olaide Ogunshote '26

AUSTIN ARTS CENTER STAFF

Margo Caddell	Program Coordinator
Deborah Goffe	Executive Director
Mike Lenaghan	Director of Production
James Keller	Interim Technical Director

BOX OFFICE/FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Hamzah Al- Shammari '27
Juliana Boris '26
Lynn Cheng '26 (Lead)
Aleema Kelly '26
Kathleen Kelly '26
Bailey Orban '26
Carla Schmidt '27
Violeta Villacorta Apaza '27

STAGE TECHNICIANS

Hamzah Al-Shammari '27
Miranda Connolly '26
Nicky Green '29
Kathleen Kelly '26
Kayla Walsh McCarter '27
Amanda Thrul '27

COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANTS

Sophie Aponasenko '27
Lynn Cheng '26
Elina Khindova '27
Olaide Ogunshote '26
Mia Rodriguez '26

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

Sophie Aponasenko '27
Juliana Boris '26
Kathleen Kelly '26
Olaide Ogunshote '26

CHALLENGE YOURSELF. DISCOVER YOUR POWER.

S26 Theater + Dance Courses

THDN 205. Intermediate Acting — Sharpen your voice, movement, and presence using classical and contemporary acting techniques. Great for anyone looking to boost confidence, creativity, or communication — on stage or off. Some experience required. Great for those in education, english, film, political science, psychology, public policy and law. ARTW.

THDN 233. Critical Views/Critical Values — Why does performance move us — or mess with us? Dive into performances from past and present and examine how we interpret, judge, and connect with art. Great for american studies, english, film, history, philosophy, sociology, and anyone who loves asking big questions. ART.

THDN 215. Making Dances — Move with power. Learn to use your body to tell stories and create meaning. Gain control, improve coordination, and discover the strength and consequence your body holds. Perfect for majors in studio arts, music, education, psychology, film, STEM, student athletes, and anyone curious about the power of physical expression. ARTW.

THDN 242. American Rhythms: Dances of the African Diaspora — How do rhythm and resistance shape American culture? Read, write, and dance your way through the history of African Diasporic dance in the U.S. Perfect for majors in american studies, anthropology, history, human rights, music, religion, or anyone curious about the story of American dance. ARTIP.

THDN 271. Mapping Arts Economies — Dig into who holds power, how success is defined, and where opportunities begin? Explore how art is built and sustained across curatorial, academic, philanthropic, and community spaces. Perfect for american studies, art history, anthropology, english, film, music, STEM, studio arts, and those curious about how art thrives. ARTIW.

UPCOMING AAC EVENTS

Are You Also Divergent, Friend?

An Exhibition by
Dennis Delgado
Mo, Oct 6 - Fri, Dec 5
Th, Nov 6 (5:00pm) — Reception
Widener Gallery
Austin Arts Center

Book Dances: Open Rehearsal

Justice Dance
Performance Project
Th, Oct 30 (12:30pm)
Studio 156
Trinity Commons

Whale Fall

Dance Film Screening +
Alumni Artist Talk
by mayfield brooks
We, Nov 12 (7:00pm)
Cinestudio

Choral Evensong: The Chapel Singers

We, Nov 12 (5:15pm)
Trinity Chapel

The Mix: Meditations on Space

Directed by Peter Kyle
Th-Sa, Nov 20-23 (7:30pm)
Goodwin Theater
Austin Arts Center

Music Ensembles Week

Ensembles Concert

Tu, December 2 (12:15pm)
Gruss Music Hall
Austin Arts Center

Jazz Concert

Tu, December 2 (7:30pm)
Goodwin Theater
Austin Arts Center

Steel + Hand Drums Concert

We, December 3 (7:30pm)
Goodwin Theater
Austin Arts Center

Chamber Ensemble Concert

Th, December 4 (12:15pm)
Gruss Music Hall
Austin Arts Center

Theater + Dance Senior Theses

Performance Lab
Trinity Commons

School Girls; or, The African Mean Girls Play (excerpts)

Play by Jocelyn Bioh
Directed by Kelly Asefa
We, Dec 3 (7:30pm)

ATHENA

Play Gracie Gardner
Directed by Kathleen Kelly
Th, Dec 4 (7:30pm)

Christmas Festival of Lessons + Carols

Su, Dec 7 (4:00pm and 7:00pm)
Trinity Chapel

Last Night

Mo, December 8 (5:30pm)
Performance Lab
Trinity Commons

Trinity/La Mama Showcase

We, December 10 (7:30pm)
Performance Lab
Trinity Commons

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