THE ALLEGHENY COLLEGE PLAYSHOP THEATRE PRESENTS

this RANDOW WORLD the myth of serendipity STEVERETZ

March 20–23, 2025 Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre



BY STEVEN DIETZ

March 20–23, 2025 Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre

DIRECTED BY MARK COSDON

CAST

Beth Ward	Grace Kegel
Tim Ward	Lukas Deemer
Scottie Ward	Susan Clark
Bernadette	Niyah Moore
Rhonda	Emily Adams
Claire	Lucy Palmer
Gary	Aaron Rape
A Man	Glenn Holland

Place: A city in the United States. And various distant lands.

Time: The present. Late winter and early spring.

The videotaping or other video or audio recordings of this production is strictly prohibited. Also, you must turn off your cell and refrain from texting during the production. The light from your phone is distracting to the performers and other audience members.

World premiere in the 2016 Humana Festival of New American Plays at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

Content Warning: This production includes conversations surrounding death, dying, and self-harm.

PLAYSHOP THEATRE STAFF

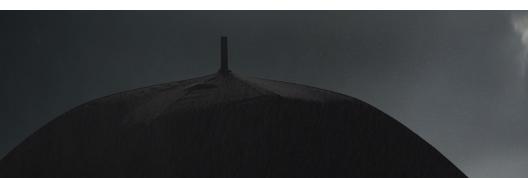
Managing Director	Mark Cosdon
Resident Directors	Mark Cosdon, Rachel Hoey
Production Manager	LeeAnn Yeckley
Resident Designers	Michael Mehler, Uriel Gomez
Technical Director	LeeAnn Yeckley
Assistant Technical Director	Heather Curtis

PLAYSHOP STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Assistant Production Managers Mallory Furgal, Claire Hurd		
Lead TechniciansKatherine Hoehl, Elsa Waidelich		
Production TechniciansAbishek Dhakal, Charlotte Feucht,		
Mallory Furgal, Claire Hurd, Megan Kromer,		
Chole Loose, Samuel Roque		
Lead Costume TechniciansKaleialoha Froning, Mycah Quevillon		
Costume TechniciansDanielle Ashley, Charlotte Feucht,		
Gabi Kyle, Adriana Navarro, Anh Nguyen, Khanh Nguyen,		
Nhi Nguyen, Sadie Riedel, Lorena Silva Soares de Oliveira,		
Bella Spears, Kisanet Tekle		

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic & Lighting Designer	Michael Mehler
Costume Designer	Uriel Gomez
Technical Director	LeeAnn Yeckley
Assistant Technical Director	Heather Curtis
Sound Designer	Emily Graber
Stage Manager	Mallory Furgal
Assistant Stage Managers	Rebecca Moore, Owen Ranus
Properties	LeeAnn Yeckley
Sound Board Operator	Mary Karstens
Light Board Operator	Kessler Potter
Electrical Supervisor	Heather Curtis
Assistant Production Managers	Mallory Furgal, Claire Hurd
Wardrobe Charge	Kaleialoha Froning
Wardrobe Crew	Charlotte Feucht, Bella Speirs
Run CrewNatalie Ande	rson, Tess Bursic, Krista Rieger,
	Rachael Stasic, Kayla Young
Marketing Lead	Brian Martone
Poster Design	Sarah Swanson
Photographer	Bill Owen
Box Office Manager	Beniamin Bargar



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Steven Dietz's *This Random World* is an extended contemporary rumination on the ways in which all of us are ultimately interlinked–often in ways we're unaware. The internet both facilitates and complicates our attempts to untangle many of these mysteries. After all, who hasn't Googled themselves, a friend or family member, a potential partner, or a would-be business associate--just for starters--and then consequently disappeared down an internet rabbit hole? And, what happens when one turns up another person that shares the same name?

A staple of the rom-com is serendipity-the beauty and thrill of chance meetings, our stars aligning, and the universe cooperating. *This Random World* upends this idea. The play's audience knows how each of these characters are interconnected. For the characters? This takes some time. Does everything happen for a reason? Or, as Scottie, the play's aging matriarch states: "Don't believe it. Everything is an accident."

This Random World is a tender, funny, bittersweet play. Disengagement, lives that don't go according to plan, fractured family ties, grief and mourning are all here. Yet, the play also suggests that if we listen, connect, and live with open hearts we have the ability to transcend and be renewed. The play's ending certainly suggests this.

I've admired Steven Dietz for a number of years. I was first exposed to this gifted playwright decades ago when I moved to Seattle. Days after my arrival I attended the premiere of his widely-produced play *God's Country*, a daring look at the rise of the white supremacist movement. Annually, Dietz is one of the United States' most produced playwrights. As you'll discover, Dietz's plays (which include *Private Eyes, Fiction, Lonely Planet, Foolin' Around with Infinity,* and *More Fun Than Bowling*) are unflinching examinations of troubled characters in postmodern predicaments. I'm thrilled to introduce this gifted playwright to Playshop audiences.

Thank you for coming to our production and thank you for supporting live theatre!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Professor Carl Olson, Allegheny College

William Beazell Memorial Fund, Allegheny College

Professor David Jortner, Department of Theatre Arts, Baylor University

Meadville Community Theatre and the Company of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*

Dan Volna

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- Express your appreciation of Allegheny
- Recognize a special person or occasion
- Share a word of wisdom or encouragement

The funds raised through this endeavor will be placed in an endowed fund, the income from which will be used to support Playshop Theatre productions. With this valuable resource, the Playshop can continue to engage in innovative and exciting performances, and students will achieve new levels of excellence as they pursue their passion for theatre.

To purchase a plaque

and for more information (814) 332-2556 • lyoung@allegheny.edu