

THE ALLEGHENY COLLEGE PLAYSHOP THEATRE PRESENTS

this

RANDOM

WORLD

*The myth of
serendipity*

**STEVEN
DIETZ**

March 20–23, 2025 | Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre

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*The myth of
serendipity*

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 Technicians.....Katherine Hoehl, Elsa Waidelich
Production Technicians.....Abishek Dhakal, Charlotte Feucht,
Mallory Furgal, Claire Hurd, Megan Kromer,
Chole Loose, Samuel Roque
Lead Costume Technicians..Kaleialoha Froning, Mycah Quevillon
Costume Technicians.....Danielle 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 Crew.....Natalie Anderson, Tess Bursic, Krista Rieger,
Rachael Stasic, Kayla Young
Marketing Lead.....Brian Martone
Poster Design.....Sarah Swanson
Photographer.....Bill Owen
Box Office Manager.....Benjamin 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 Bezell 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

PLAY SHOP THEATRE ALLEGHENY COLLEGE

allegheny.edu/playshop

The Playshop Theatre Box Office

(814) 332-3414

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Support Allegheny's Playshop Theatre by purchasing a personalized brass plaque for a seat in the Gladys Mullenix Black Theatre.

- 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