

Blue Demon Theatre Presents

**SHORT  
& SWEET  
THEATRE**



A Performance of Original 10-Minute Plays

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BLUE DEMON THEATRE

presents

**Short and Sweet Theatre**

A Performance of Original 10-Minute Plays

*Produced by*  
**Ben Stumpe**

*Directed by*  
**Gael Rojas**  
**Jade Magno McGovern**  
**Grace Provan**  
**Lillian Groth**  
**Sami Meal**  
**Charlie LaBerge**  
**Chidinma Nwoye**  
**Ben Stumpe**

*Performances*  
January 27-29, 2022  
Athenaeum Center for  
Thought & Culture



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MANAGING DIRECTOR.....	Emmy Drover
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR.....	Isabella Siska
MARKETING DIRECTOR.....	Grace Ryan
BOARD PRODUCTION DIRECTORS.....	Michelle Cerron Talie Gurevich Kayla Holliday
FRESHMEN REPRESENTATIVES.....	Grace Provan Ellie Rath Anum Sadruddin

## PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER.....	Ben Stumpe
STAGE MANAGER.....	Rachel Wegner
LIGHT DESIGNER/OPERATOR.....	Jade Magno McGovern
SOUND DESIGNER/OPERATOR.....	Claire Lewis
SET DESIGNER.....	Ben Stumpe
ASSISTANT LIGHT DESIGNER.....	Hailee Rose
STAGE CREW.....	Hailee Rose Gael Rojas
GRAPHIC DESIGNER/PROGRAM LAYOUT EDITOR.....	Ben Stumpe
PROGRAM CONTENT EDITOR.....	Anum Sadruddin
PHOTOGRAPHER.....	Jacob Frost
VIDEOGRAPHERS.....	Isabella Siska Josh Michals

## ACT I

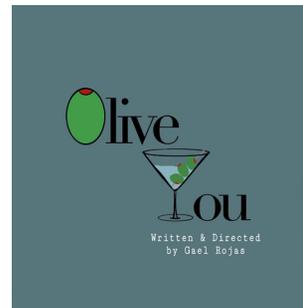
(in order of appearance)

### Olive You

PLAYWRIGHT.....Gael Rojas  
DIRECTOR.....Gael Rojas

ATHENA.....Ashley Schmittle  
HARRY.....Nathan Kirk

Synopsis: A lovely couple are about to have a nice dinner, but then they receive bad news.



### Can I Turn It Up?

PLAYWRIGHT.....Jade Magno McGovern  
DIRECTOR.....Jade Magno McGovern

EVE.....Ellie Rath  
MICHELLE.....Ainsley Soane

Synopsis: A complicated relationship between a mother and a daughter unfolds during a long car ride.



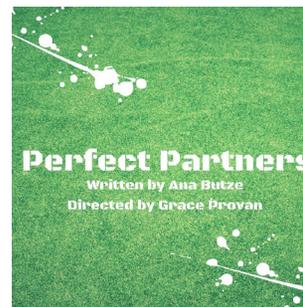
### Perfect Partners

PLAYWRIGHT.....Ana Butze  
DIRECTOR.....Grace Provan

DETECTIVE ALLAN TURNER.....Rainier Dela Cruz  
DETECTIVE ERICA MULLIGAN.....Anum Sadruddin  
JUSTINA.....Talie Gurevich

Synopsis: After a man is shot, it is up to Senior Detective Allan Turner and his new partner Detective Erica Mulligan to figure out who did it. Shenanigans ensue.

*Content Warning: This play includes a gun shot.*



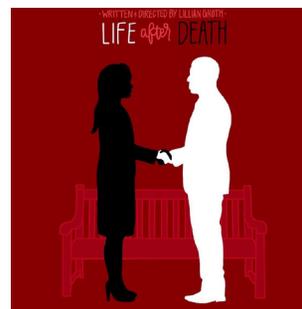
### Life After Death

PLAYWRIGHT.....Lillian Groth  
DIRECTOR.....Lillian Groth

GEORGE.....Tobi Orisarayi  
DEATH.....Clare Donovan

Synopsis: George, a man on his way home from work, is encountered by a mysterious stranger who offers him a contract that could change his life.

*Content Warning: This play includes adult language.*



# Donations

Blue Demon Theatre relies on donations to help produce high-quality theatrical productions for all DePaul students. Please consider making a donation at the end of the performance at the donation box or through Venmo @bluedemontheatre (last four digits 9361).

Thank you for your support and monetary contribution!

inspire **DEPAUL**

If you would like to donate to Blue Demon Theatre's spring musical *Into the Woods* please visit [inspire.depaul.edu](http://inspire.depaul.edu) or scan this QR code!



## ACT II

(in order of appearance)

### Having Fun at Applebee's

PLAYWRIGHT.....Jade Magno McGovern  
DIRECTOR.....Sami Meal

MAY.....Sarah Metz  
ALEX.....Eli Carey

Synopsis: A Tinder date at Applebee's goes terribly wrong when one person is a pompous philosophy major, and the other is Spider-Man.

### Please Leave Your Message

PLAYWRIGHT.....Meghan Lajewski  
DIRECTOR.....Charlie LaBerge  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.....Olivia Orlando

ETHAN.....Tanner Sells  
JENNA.....Tess Detwiler  
JORIE.....Grace Johnson  
LIZ.....Anum Sadruddin

Synopsis: While making an anniversary gift for her parents, Jenna invites her best friend Liz to stay for dinner. At her parents' arrival, not everything is as it seems: everyone is hiding intentions, truths, and hopes. As her family and world unravels, Jenna hopes she can be the one to stitch it back together.

*Content Warning: This play includes intense domestic arguments.*

### Falling Dominoes

PLAYWRIGHT.....Meghan Lajewski  
DIRECTOR.....Chidinma Nwoye

MELANIE.....Megan Knoll  
CAMERON.....Nathan Kirk

Synopsis: On what should have been a regular night of delivering pizzas, Cameron gets more than he bargained for when a stranger enters his car. While their meeting is purely coincidental, they discover that they are two lost souls who needed to find each other.

*Content Warning: This play includes mentions of suicide and domestic violence.*

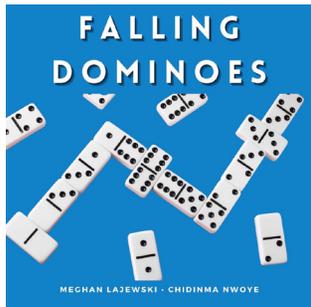
### Game Day

PLAYWRIGHT.....Ben Stumpe  
DIRECTOR.....Ben Stumpe

COACH RAY.....Ben Stumpe  
JACK.....Sam Albrecht  
TOMMY.....Christian Hall  
COLLIN.....Jaden Easton

Synopsis: It's game day, and Coach Ray is not having it with his 9-year old little league soccer team.

*Content Warning: This play includes thick white thighs and a lot of messed up stuff.*



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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

**Sam Albrecht** (*Jack*) is so very excited to be in Blue Demon Theatre's production of *Short and Sweet Theatre!* He is a sophomore at DePaul majoring in Marketing and minoring in Comedy Filmmaking. Sam is from the suburbs of Chicago and some of his favorite shows he's been a part of are *Mousetrap* (Christopher Wren), *Little Mermaid* (Scuttle), *Almost Maine* (Steve), and *She Kills Monsters* (Steve). Sam is so thankful to be back in theatre again and he would like to thank everyone involved for making this such a great show!

**Ana Butze** (*Playwright*) is a freshman at DePaul majoring in Film and Television with a concentration in showrunning. Ana is beyond excited to be a part of her first production with Blue Demon Theatre. She took part in stage management and directing all throughout high school in her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. Ana would like to thank her parents and theatre teachers from back home for encouraging her to pursue her dreams.

**Eli Carey** (*Alex*) Eli is a first year Comedy Arts major. They are very excited to be acting again in a role that has some strange similarities to them... (not saying they are Spider-Man, but not *not* saying they are Spider-Man). When they are not doing theatre things, Eli enjoys brisk walks and being Jewish.

**Rainier Dela Cruz** (*Detective Turner*) is a sophomore at DePaul, majoring in Film & Television with a concentration in directing. He started acting in theatre during his freshman year of high school and has been participating in the fall plays and spring musicals since then. He started writing for the stage towards the end of his senior year, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and wrote the Zoom play "MAFIA" for last year's Short and Sweet Theatre. He would like to thank his family and friends back in San Francisco for supporting him throughout this wild journey.

**Tess Detwiler** (*Jenna*) is a freshman film major. She is very excited to be a part of *Please Leave Your Message* and to be back on stage for the first time since 2018. She would like to thank her friends, and of course, the cast and crew!

**Clare Margaret Donovan** (*Death*) is an actress and writer who graduated from the LA County High School for the Arts (LACHSA) in 2020 with a dual-major credential in Theatre and Cinematic Arts. Her professional TV/Film credits include Disney Channel's *Bunk'd*, Fox's *The Gifted*, feature films *Body Keepers* and *The Breakdown*, and Snapchat's new media series *Solve*, in addition to a variety of short films and commercials! As far as theatre, the highlight of her career was playing Maria in LACHSA's production of *12th Night* directed by Elizabeth Dennehy. She has worked as an Intern/Development Assistant for Flying Glass of Milk Productions for three years. Clare is majoring in Comedy Filmmaking here at DePaul in partnership with The Second City Chicago! On a more personal note, Clare loves traveling with her family, creative collaboration with her family and friends (done exclusively at coffee shops), and frequenting museums and the National Geographic newsletter! Special thanks to her family and both Lillian and Tobi for such a great experience working on *Life After Death!*

**Jaden Easton** (*Collin*) is a sophomore student at DePaul University. This is Jaden's theatrical acting debut, and he is excited to be up there. He studies Film and Television with a concentration in Screenwriting, so one day he just might write your new favorite movie.

**Lillian Groth** (*Playwright/Director*) is a freshman and is majoring in English with a concentration in Creative Writing. Lillian has been in many theatrical productions, but her favorites include *Hairspray* (Corny Collins member), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator), *Annie* (Miss Hannigan), and *Cinderella* (Cinderella). This is her first time directing a show and she is very excited at the prospect of doing more productions with Blue Demon Theatre throughout her four years. She would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and a special shoutout to Tobi and Clare for being amazing people to work with on this show!

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

**Talie Gurevich** (*Justina*) is a junior majoring in Communications and Media and double minoring in Business and Industrial Psychology. She's a born and raised Chicagoan who is a proud fan of the Chicago Bulls. She has been involved with theatre since an early age performing at Edge of the Woods. Her favorite musical she's been a part of is *Addams Family*. Some of Talie's favorite Broadway shows include *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Waitress*.

**Christian Hall** (*Tommy*) is a freshman studying Business Administration with a minor in Theatre. He is originally from Cleveland, OH, where he spent most of his life performing, especially in school. His favorite shows he's been a part of include *Shrek the Musical* (Peter Pan/Farquar's Knight), *Damn Yankees* (Mickey), *Wildwood Park* (Dr. Simian), *Three Tables* (Todd), and as of late, *Little Women* (Mr. Dashwood). His hobbies include singing, songwriting, and concept writing. He is so thankful to be a part of Blue Demon Theatre and cannot wait for what's next!

**Grace Johnson** (*Jorie*) is a freshman at DePaul majoring in Criminology. She is thrilled to be making her debut acting performance in *Please Leave Your Message*. Grace would like to thank her family and friends back home in Michigan for their encouragement and support.

**Nathan Kirk** (*Cameron/Harry*) is a first year Acting Major at The Theatre School at DePaul, but his real passion is finance. Boy oh boy, there's nothing that revs his engine like a restructured mortgage and asset management to boost the credit on your 401k. He is excited for you to see *Olive You* and *Falling Dominoes*, but he's so much more excited for Tax Day! Mark your calendars! April 18th! He also has a family and stuff.

**Megan Knoll** (*Melanie*) is a junior at DePaul majoring in Digital Marketing, but her dream is to be an actor in the future. She is so excited to be a part of the show and making her theater debut. One of her favorite things to do is dance. She has been a dancer since she was 3 years old and is not new to the stage. She got the honor to be a part of a hip-hop team called "The PieceMakers" outside of school. She would like to thank her twin sister for supporting her and her dreams.

**Charlie LaBerge** (*Director*) is a freshmen journalism student at DePaul University. After playing John Brooks in BDT's production of *Little Women*, he is very excited to be directing *Please Leave Your Message!* He would like to thank his family and friends for always being there to support him.

**Meghan Lajewski** (*Playwright*) is a sophomore with a Film major and has a concentration in Screenwriting. She is thrilled to be a part of this production and share stories that are very meaningful to her. She would like to thank her friends and family that are always there to support and encourage her. A special shoutout to her high school playwright teacher, who always pushed her to keep writing and growing.

**Claire Rosemary Lewis** (*Sound Operator*) is a third-year animation student with a concentration in Storyboarding & Character Design and a double minor in Media & Cinema Studies and Radio, TV, & New Media. Design and technology and how they relate to the message of a piece of media are interests of hers, and she is planning to study media further in graduate school. She spends her time writing, animating, and teaching online music and art lessons to kids.

**Jade Magno McGovern** (*Playwright/Director/Lighting Designer*) is a sophomore with a major in Theatre Arts Directing and a double minor in Art History and Music Studies. Jade has been a part of many theatrical productions, but her favorites include *Young Frankenstein* (Assistant Director/Producer), *Little Women* (Lighting Designer), and the world premiere of *Me, You, Them, and the Other One* (Kent). She thanks her family and friends back in New York who inspire her more than they know.

**Sami Meal** (*Director*) is a freshman at DePaul majoring in advertising and public relations with a minor in creative writing. Sami directed and acted all throughout high school. She's very excited to be directing again and looks forward to everyone seeing the show. Enjoy!

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

**Sarah Metz** (*May*) is a first year Comedy Arts major with a concentration in fnaf lore and scooter jumps. A self-proclaimed “master” of the craft, Sarah is currently on hiatus from her day job as an international parkour champion. She is absolutely thrilled to be back on the stage, especially alongside Eli Carey, who is always chasing her shadow. Sarah would like to dedicate her performance to Harrison Landolt and Josh Breedlove, AKA “da squad”. And finally, to Cully Jacobson, you know what you did.

**Chidinma Nwoye** (*Director*) is a freshman studying Public Health and minoring in Screenwriting. Originally from Piscataway, NJ, this is Chidinma's second show with BDT, and the second play she's directed so far. Chidinma has been involved with school theatre since ninth grade, and she hopes to go on to write television and movies in the near future!

**Tobi Orisarayi** (*George*) was born and raised in Los Angeles and is Nigerian-American. He is a senior at DePaul majoring in Political Science. His friends would describe him as an indie artist with a vendetta against the west coast. You can find him writing a blues ballad when he's not directing his label, @Tob1chi. *Life after Death* by the witty Lillian Groth is, to him, a story about trauma dumping and gaslighting God. He thanks Clare Donovan for bearing the weight, as Death. Many thanks to the Cast and Crew of Blue Demon Theatre.

**Grace Provan** (*Director*) is a Theatre Arts Major at The Theatre School here at DePaul University. She is not new to the Blue Demon Theatre stage, as she just played Meg March in *Little Women*. She's very excited to be directing *Perfect Partners*. In addition to this directing experience, she has also directed *Trifels*, *The Game*, and abridged Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars* into a play. This show won “Outstanding Service to the Club” because of its outreach to younger generations. She would like to thank her family and friends, as well as her amazing cast. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**Ellie Rath** (*Eve*) is a freshman majoring in Communication and Media in the 3+3 BA/JD program. She was involved in many cast, crew, and writing positions in high school and in her local arts center. Ellie is so excited to be a part of Blue Demon Theatre and was previously part of the set crew for *Little Women*. She is so thankful for her family, friends, and everyone involved in this production and hopes you enjoy the show!!

**Gael Rojas** (*Director*) is a freshman at DePaul majoring in Film & Television. He is concentrating on directing. Gael has done theatre all his years in highschool and loved every second of it. *Olive You* is the first play that Gael has written and directed. He loves working with his actors and can't wait for all of you to see it.

**Hailee Rose** (*Lighting Designer Assistant/Stage Crew*) is a sophomore at DePaul studying Film and TV with a concentration in Screenwriting. She is originally from Greensboro, North Carolina, where she performed in various musicals all throughout elementary, middle, and high school, such as *Legally Blonde* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. This is Hailee's first production with BDT and her first time being on crew.

**Anum Sadruddin** (*Detective Mulligan/Liz*) is a freshman studying Marketing at DePaul University! Some of her theatre highlights are playing Beth March in BDT's production of *Little Women*, Emily in “Small Actors,” and Ruth in *V for Vendetta*. She is so excited for you to see *Perfect Partners* and *Please Leave Your Message*, and would like to thank her directors, playwrights, and cast for this wonderful experience!

**Ashley Schmittle** (*Athena*) is a sophomore and a Women's and Gender Studies major. She performed in many plays throughout high school. Some of her favorite roles include Dale in *5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche*, Bella in *Lost in Yonkers*, and Ramona in *Zara Spook and Other Lures*. She's excited for her first performance at DePaul and hopes that you enjoy the show.

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## WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

**Tanner Sells** (*Ethan*) is a freshman at DePaul university. He is a comedy film major and has been in musical theater since the age of seven and has been in over 30 community and professional theater productions. He is very excited to share the stage with his friends and fellow performers and wants to thank Charlie LaBerge for taking a chance on him and also God.

**Ainsley Soane** (*Michelle*) is a Junior Computer Science major with a concentration in software development at DePaul University, however, her real passion is acting! You will typically find her in her apartment struggling to complete her coding assignments. She rarely goes out with friends since her schedule is completely packed with coding and the occasional meltdown. She is so excited to be a part of this show and hopes she doesn't mess up in front of her family and all of her many (three) friends.

**Ben Stumpe** (*Producer/Playwright/Director/Coach Ray*) is a junior majoring in Communication and Media with a minor in Theatre Studies. Ben is proud to be the Artistic Director and Founder of Blue Demon Theatre, and is happy to lead such a talented group of cast and crew members. He has been in several BDT productions such as the *Valentine's Cabaret*, *Spring Awakening Cabaret*, [title of show], and *Halloween Cabaret*. Recent theatre credits include *Couch the Musical* (Tyler), *Our Town* (George Gibbs), *Matilda* (Doctor), *Footloose* (Rev. Shaw Moore), and *Shrek the Musical* (Lord Farquaad). Ben is a member of DePaul Improv and Sketch Comedy and performs stand-up comedy at local Chicago comedy clubs in his spare time. He is also a member of the Chicago Playwright Group and DePaul Honors Student Government where he serves as the Vice-President. Thank you Maureen for all of your love and support!

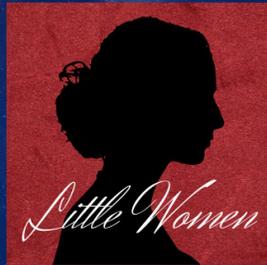
**Rachel Wegner** (*Stage Manager*) is a sophomore majoring in Communications and Media with a minor in Creative Writing. She has taken part in several shows throughout middle and high school, both on and off stage, and is excited to be taking part in her first show with Blue Demon Theatre. She would like to thank her family for all of their support and the *Short and Sweet Theatre* cast and crew for a great show.



**BLUE DEMON THEATRE**  
2021-2022 SEASON: LOST TIME



OCTOBER 20



NOVEMBER 4, 5, 7



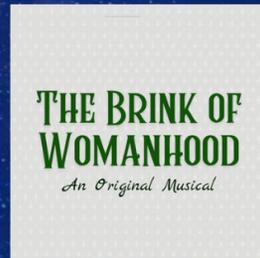
JANUARY 27-29



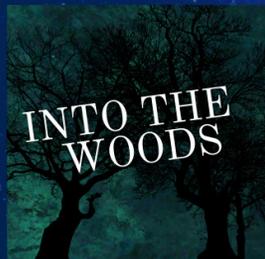
FEBRUARY 10



MARCH 4



APRIL 1-3



MAY 26-28



JUNE 4



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**THEATRE**

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