

PLAYBILL®

Wichita State University School of Performing Arts
Wichita, KS

SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS/Theatre

Voices in the Void

Devised by the Company rating: PG
online via webinar

March 11th-13th at 7:30 pm

March 14th at 2:00 pm Tickets:
\$10.00



WSU students receive 1 free ticket
with WSU Student ID number

All tickets are Virtual. To Purchase Virtual Tickets go to
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ASSOCIATION

**Wichita State University
School of Performing Arts**

PRESENTS

VOICES IN THE VOID

Devised by the Company

with

**Cameron Brown
Crosby Dold
Carson Ediger
Ashley Grega**

**Austin Hancock
Bethany Khanu
Sang Le
Victoria Oquendo
Emily Redfield**

**Zachary Richardson
Renae Richmond
Hagan Simmons
Drew Thomas**

Virtual Visual Design
Wesley Sweigart

Stage Manager
Alexandra Simpson

Costume Design
Jacob Kramer

Lighting Design
David Neville

Props Master
August Smaglik

Sound Design
Ed Baker

Directed by
Danette Baker

SCENES

Act 1

Digital Fugue: voices in the void

Scene 1: Counselor's Office

Digital Fugue: notifications

Scene 2: Will & Rob's Apartment

Digital Fugue: idk or I can't say

Scene 3: The Hangout

Digital Fugue: tell it like it is

Scene 4: The Restaurant

Digital Fugue: words stuck in my head

Scene 5: Will & Rob's Apartment

Digital Fugue: how to talk with butterflies

Scene 6: Melanie's TA Office

Digital Fugue: chrysalis

Scene 7: Counselor's Office

Digital Fugue: mix-matched, rock solid

Scene 8: The Hangout

Digital Fugue: how to turn noise into harmony

Scene 9: Will and Rob's Apartment

Digital Fugue: tone poem for 9 voices

Scene 10: Dani & Joe's Apartment

Digital Fugue: chichi lesson on sound energy

Scene 11: Will and Rob's Apartment

Digital Fugue: place of healing

Scene 12: The Hangout

Scene 13: Will's Room in Will & Rob's Apartment

Digital Fugue: Epilogue

CAST

Cast Members

Will	Drew Thomas
Robert	Sang Le
Brad	Hagan Simmons
Anna	Bethany Khanu
Melanie	Renaë Richmond
Emerson	Crosby Dold
Charlie	Victoria Oquendo
Hunter	Zachary Richardson
Oliver	Cameron Brown
Dani	Ashley Grega
Joe	Carson Ediger
Martin	Austin Hancock
Sapphire	Emily Redfield

Covers

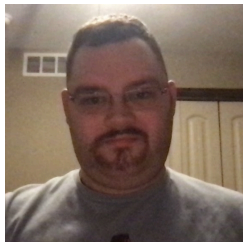
Austin Hancock	If an actor drops out due to technical difficulties, a cover will step in until the actor returns
Emily Redfield	If an actor drops out due to technical difficulties, a cover will step in until the actor returns

CREW

Crew Members

Director	Danette Baker
Assistant to the Director	Victoria Boyd
Dramaturg	Dr. Julie Longhofer
Production Manager	Amy Chisman
Assistant Production Manager	Melissa Penkava Koza
Technical Director	Ed Baker
Stage Manager	Alexandra Simpson
Stage Manager Mentor	Ed Baker
Assistant Stage Manager	Alexys Porter
Costume Designer	Jacob Kramer
Costume Design Mentor	Sarah Bussard
Lighting Designer	David Neville
Sound Designer	Ed Baker
Virtual Visual Designer	Wesley Sweigart
Scene Design Mentor	David Neville
Scene Shop Manager	Jason Flanders
Scene Shop Crew	Trevor Seyl Alex Simpson Alicia Miro
Costume Shop Manager	Melissa Penkava Koza
Lead Costume Shop Assistant	Erin Mittman
Costume Shop Assistants	Emily Evans, Ariel Glorsky, Katie Goetz, Jacob Kramer, Katy Reko
Prop Master	August Smaglik
Poster Designer	Ella Kempker
Artist of Commisioned Art Piece	Alicia Miró
Playbill Design	Courtney Wages

WHO'S WHO



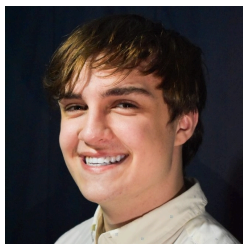
Cameron Brown

Cameron Brown (Oliver) is delighted to be starring in Wichita State University's theatre production of *Voices in the Void*. He has previously served as a stagehand for *Noises Off!* & *The Wizard of Oz* (Derby High School) as well as *The Moors* (Wichita State Theatre Department). Cameron is a sophomore, set to graduate in two years with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. He was previously a member of Derby Drama Troupe 184. Cameron's mission is to work as a voice actor for Rooster Teeth's animation department.



Crosby Dold

Crosby Dold (Emerson) is making their Wichita State University theatre debut. Previous credits include *Viral Shakespeare: The Second Wave* (Wichita Shakespeare Company), *Mamma Mia* (Theatre Lawrence), and *Les Misérables* (Lawrence Art Center). Crosby is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance with a minor in music. Crosby's mission is to provide people with a sense of escapism through theatre.



Carson Ediger

Carson Ediger (Joe) is excited to be making his Wichita State University theatre debut. Previously he appeared in *Merry Murders at Montmarie* (Caldwell High School), *Alice in Wonderland* (Caldwell High School), and *Stop That Villain! or Have You No Shame, Rip Roquefort?* (Caldwell High School). Carson is a freshman pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance. Carson's mission as an artist is "to bring the world together through laughter and entertainment."



Ashley Grega

Ashley Grega (Dani) is making their Wichita State University theatre debut. Previous credits include *Newsies* (MVHS), *You Can't Take it With You* (MVHS), and *The Fantasticks* (MVHS). Ashley is pursuing a degree in theatre with a minor in communications, and is a member of Delta Gamma. Ashley's mission statement is to empower aspiring artists to follow their dreams.

WHO'S WHO



Austin Hancock

Austin Hancock (Martin) is making their Wichita State University debut. Before this show, he had roles in *Title of Show* (Independence Community College) *Dead Man's Cellphone* (Independence Community College), *Nunsense* (Field Kindley High School), and *Beauty and The Beast* (Coffeyville Community College). Austin is a sophomore in pursuit of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance, as well as a certificate in Voice Acting. Austin's mission is "to make people laugh and enjoy their lives, even for just a moment." You can learn more about Austin at <https://austinhancock.weebly.com/>



Bethany Khanu

Bethany Khanu (Anna) is excited to be making her Wichita State University theatre debut. Previous credits include *She Stoops to Conquer* (Kechi Playhouse), *The Crucible* (St. James Episcopal Church), and *Arabian Nights* (Mulvane WildActs). Bethany is a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts and is a member of Phenomenal Women Organization. Her mission as an artist is "to help bring the world into the light of joy and happiness with a smile."



Sang Le

Sang Le's (Robert) has been in leading rolls like Harry in *Night of the Living Dead LIVE!* (Independence Community College), Dan and Jimmy in *Almost Maine* (Independence Community College), Chuck in *She kills Monsters* (Independence Community College), and John in *Anything Goes* (Wichita State University). Sang is happy to be obtaining a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance Arts at Wichita State University.

WHO'S WHO



Victoria Oquendo

Victoria Oquendo (Charlie) is excited to be making their Wichita State University theatre debut. Previously they appeared in *In The Middle of Grand Central Station* (Campus High School), and worked on the wardrobe crew for *Comedy of Errors* (Wichita State University) and *Gianni Schicchi/L'enfant* (Wichita State University). Victoria is a junior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. Victoria's mission is to "inspire others to change their outlook on the world through her art."



Emily Redfield

Emily Redfield (Sapphire) is making her Wichita State University theatre debut. Previous credits include *She Stoops to Conquer* (Kechi Playhouse), *The Radio Adventures Of Trixie Trueheart: Girl Aviator* (Kechi Playhouse), and *Les Miserables* (Music Theatre for Young People). Emily is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance along with a Directing Certificate. Emily's mission is to inspire future generations of artists.



Zachary Richardson

Zachary Richardson (Hunter) is a sophomore attending Wichita State University and striving for a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre: Performance. He has been in other shows here including *Comedy of Errors*. He is excited to be a part of this unique experience and looks forward to continuing to perform here at Wichita State!



Renae Richmond

Renae Richmond (Melanie) is thrilled to make their Wichita State University Theatre debut. Previously she has been seen in *Stuart Little* (A.D. Players Academy), *Matilda the Musical* (Centre Stage Theatrical School), and a Wichita State student film entitled *Brainstorm*. She is a freshman pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance and aiming to minor in music theatre. Renae's mission as an artist is "to inspire others through performing."

WHO'S WHO



Hagan Simmons

Hagan Simmons (Brad) is playing the role of Brad. He is a second year student at Wichita State University. He has appeared in the past at WSU as the Mastiff in *The Moors*. He is proud to be a part of the process that created this wonderful production.



Drew Thomas

Drew Thomas (Will) is a sophomore here at Wichita State University and is thrilled for you all to watch the company's devised piece *Voices in the Void*. You may have seen him as Cameron in WSU's film *Flash Bang* or as Dr. Lynn Keaton in WSU's Stagestruck Audio Theatre's show *The Midnight Angel*. He is super thankful for all the opportunities given to him by his peers, professors, and the community around him. He hopes you all enjoy the show and everything it has to offer.

DIRECTORS NOTE



Why This Play, This Way, Now

Voices in the Void is a Group-Built piece that the cast, the dramaturg/script doctor and I have been developing since last September. The idea grew out of teaching students who were reluctant to express their thoughts, ideas or opinions in class. Over the past few years, the silence in our classrooms has become louder and louder. I was chatting with students one day about why they are so hesitant to speak up, and what they said was “Nobody really wants to hear what I have to say” and “When I try to say something I get shut down or ignored.” That answer shook me because in the college setting we must listen for new thoughts, ideas and dialogues; not only listen but when we hear them, lift them up. Then Covid-19 happened and the problem of being literally silenced became even more obvious with the insistence that students enter the remote classroom muted, and that most of the time they stay on mute. Add to that the long unheard and ignored voices that started to explode over the summer and the time seemed right to address the problem.

The public health concerns and safety protocols we put in place to protect our students, staff and faculty lead us to focus on the possibilities of Virtual Theatre; looking at the question “what does live theatre mean in a virtual world?” The initial plan was to see if we could combine some carefully staged movement work that would be filmed and mixed in with a live Webinar performance. Students filled out questionnaires to prompt ideas for exploration, and we developed a text from those explorations and subsequent discussions. We started working on movement pieces right before the Winter break, then picked back up in late January. Ultimately the virus hit too close to home and in the interest of safety we decided to go completely virtual. The movement pieces have been rethought to fit in the digital framework. This entire process has been about the ability to change and grow.

I am honored to work with such beautiful collaborators

Danette (MFA) is the Program Director of Theatre. Her WSU directing credits include *The Moors*, *Comedy of Errors*, *39 Steps*, and *A Hedda Gabler*. She has received Certificates of Commendation from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Region V (ACTFV) for *A Hedda Gabler* and for her fight choreography for *Twelfth Night*. She is a frequent director, actor and fight coordinator for *Seven Devils New Play Foundry*, a national conference focusing on new play development, and has acted in theatres across the country from NY to Idaho. Danette is the only Society of American Fight Directors Certified Teacher in the state of Kansas. She has presented workshops in acting and stage combat at area high schools, colleges, state high school festivals and the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival for Region V. She is an 8-time recipient of the Mary Jane Teall Theatre award for Outstanding Acting, a recipient of the 2012 Ruth McCormick Outstanding Theatre Educator Award and the 2019 Mickey and Pete Armstrong Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching.

Special Thanks

Performance Facilities

Dean Rodney Miller and the Dean's Office

School of Performing Arts

Linda Starkey, Director of the School of Performing Arts

Performing Arts Angels





The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by
David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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The Performing Arts Angels exist to provide educational and training opportunities for talented dance, musical theatre, and theatre (performance and design/tech) students in the School of Performing Arts - opportunities not funded through the state or university.

The School of Performing Arts faculty, staff, and students recognize and deeply appreciate all your financial support. It allows us to fulfill our mission to educate and train students for a career in the arts and entertainment industry. To find out how you can become a Performing Arts Angel and support the School of Performing Arts students, please contact our office at 316-978-3899 or give online at www.wichita.edu/give.

We apologize in advance for any omission or errors in this list. Please bring corrections to the attention of Alyssa Scott at alyssa.scott@wichita.edu or 316-978-3368. Listings may shift from one program to another depending on the timing and receipt of gifts.

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