

2024–25 Theatre Highlights

This season at the Phoenix Theatre showcased unforgettable performances that blended humour, drama and timeless storytelling. We were also honoured to host alumni and special guests who shared invaluable industry insights, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world experience. It has been a season of creativity, growth and extraordinary opportunities!

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Broadway Hit

Music & Lyrics by William Finn | Director Jacques Lemay | Music Director Stephanie Sartore



Students performed in one of Broadway's most popular musicals! Under the careful and skillful direction of internationally renowned director Jacques Lemay, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* showcased our students' talent and comedic timing in a heartwarming and hilarious (sold-out!) production.

"Spelling Bee was an invaluable experience during my time in the Phoenix. Working with renowned Canadian theatre artists like Jacques Lemay and Stephanie Sartore brought so much real-world insight and training that I have taken with me to each of my projects since."

—Fourth-year Theatre student, Janina Ferrer (far left as Marcy Parks)

The Killing Game, Theatre of the Absurd

By Eugène Ionesco | Directed by faculty member Conrad Alexandrowicz



Professor Conrad Alexandrowicz brought a distinctive vision to Ionesco's absurdist play, blending physicality and striking design to create a visually and emotionally powerful experience.



In this production, student designers Lilian Doucet and Claudia Fraser created an extensive collection of costumes for a cast of sixteen, each playing multiple roles. With 115 costumes, their designs subtly distinguished each character. Collaborating with the props team, they also molded an actor's face to craft a mesh mask worn by the "cloaked man" featuring a magnetic hood attachment.

UVic alums, Broadway star Sara Topham and Artistic Director, Pablo Felices-Luna visit the Phoenix

Broadway, Stratford, and Shaw star Sara Topham and Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP) Artistic Director Pablo Felices-Luna led workshops with our students and collaborated on a staged reading of *Danny, King of the Basement* by David S. Craig. Students had the rare opportunity to perform alongside Topham, gaining invaluable experience and learning firsthand from seasoned professionals.



“The opportunity to work with Pablo and Sara was not only a phenomenal chance to work with professionals in the field, but to see how well the Phoenix Theatre program sets up students for success once they exit University. It was truly inspiring to see professionals who went down the same path as me succeed both as an actor and director.”
—First-year Theatre student, Mikan Munson

Twelfth Night, Classic with a Local Twist
By William Shakespeare | Directed by faculty member Fran Gebhard



Director Fran Gebhard led audiences on a joyous journey through *Twelfth Night*, reimagining Shakespeare’s beloved comedy in a post-climate change future inspired by BC’s rugged coastline. With music, song, choreography, and plenty of hilarity, our students brought fresh energy and charm to this classic tale of love and mistaken identity.

Adding to the fun, real-life identical twins, Makayla (L) and Mariah Madill took the stage as twins Viola and Sebastian. Audiences had a great time trying to tell these talented fourth-year acting students apart.

“Playing twins in Twelfth Night enabled us to celebrate our experience as twins with each other and an audience. We loved revealing our genuine feelings of love and care for each other through our characters. The confusion shown in the play mimics the confusion we have experienced from others throughout our lives that led us to work hard to differentiate from each other. Acting out our dynamic was cathartic, letting us honour the fun and mischievousness of being so alike.”

