



FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

THEATRE ARTS DIVISION PRESENTS

EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR

Directed by
SOPHIA BURIK

Stage Manager
LILLY GENOVESE

OCTOBER 2 - 5, 2025

WRITTEN BY
LAUREN GUNDERSON

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Exit, Pursued by a Bear has been a challenge to direct. With a complicated plot, the actors and I spent lots of time discovering the hidden meaning behind the plot and script. The table read was used as a way to get the silly choices out of the way. During the second rehearsal, I created an improvisation exercise with the following directions:

1. You now will tell the other characters (actors) what you wish you could say to them (the subtext).
2. You must follow your instincts without crossing anyone's boundaries.
3. The actor who receives the information must stay silent, but they may (and should) react.

This created an environment where the stakes increased. It lifted them out of their comedic brains and into a space that felt truer and more authentic. After that rehearsal, I saw immediate changes in the way they approached the material.

Domestic violence is real, and it happens every day. Nothing about domestic violence is comedic, but I believe the play handles it well. The audience can laugh about how odd the bear situation is so that feeling the tension between the characters becomes more terrifying. The atmosphere creates this contrast, making the audience feel Nan's struggles in a more impactful way.

Directing this play inspired me that I am capable of doing hard things. I am very grateful to my cast and crew for pulling my scrappy vision together to form a beautiful reality. If you or someone you know is struggling with domestic violence, do not be afraid to reach out for help. It may just change everything.

- *Sophia Burik*

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS EXPERIENCING
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CALL A 24-HOUR HOTLINE BELOW

THE CRIME VICTIMS CENTER: 631-332-9234 | ECLI-VIBES: 631-360-3606



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Book by

LAUREN GUNDERSON

Director

SOPHIA BURIK

Stage Manager

LILLY GENOVESE

Set Designer

JOE KENNY

Lighting Designer

SAMMI ROONEY

Costume Designer

JONNY OSCARSON

Props Master

ZARA MARTINEZ- ZOLOTOR

CAST

Nan.....**Jillson McGarry**

Sweetheart.....**Sydney Rosenberg**

Simon**B. Sam Adler**

Kyle**Frank Seitz**



Jillson McGarry



Sydney Rosenberg



B. Sam Adler



Frank Seitz

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

JILLSON MCGARRY

(Nan) is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre and is honored to be a part of this talented community of artists. She is beyond grateful for the work she gets to do here at Five Towns! Recent credits include: *Hairspray* (Shelley), *House of Blue Leaves* (Bunny), *Guys and Dolls* (Mission Band/Sarah Brown), *Something Rotten* (Bea), *Into the Woods* (Cinderella), and *Radium Girls* (Grace). She wants to thank her parents and sisters for their never-ending love and grace and this wonderful department for accepting her with open arms. And a special thank you to Sophia for a continuous effort in making theatre that is so meaningful for her actors. For a deeper dive into Jillson's theatrical pursuits, connect with her on Instagram: @justjillson. She sincerely hopes you enjoy the show!

SYDNEY ROSENBERG

(Sweetheart) is in her second semester as a BFA Musical Theatre major here at Five Towns. Sydney received her Associates in Performing Arts from Suffolk County Community College. This is Sydney's first performance at Five Towns and is excited and thankful for the experience. She would like to thank her family, friends, boyfriend, and all new friends from right here at five towns for supporting her in this journey she didn't think she'd have the courage to pursue.

B. SAM ADLER

(Simon), a Sophomore pursuing his BFA in Theater Arts with a concentration in Musical Theater, is so happy to be a part of Five Towns College's production of *Exit, Pursued by a Bear!* He has been in many productions such as; *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye), *Addams Family* (Uncle Fester), *School of Rock* (Dewey), *The Lion King* (Pumba), *Aladdin* (Genie), *Guys and Dolls* (Arvide Abernathy), *Chicago* (Billy Flynn), *Sister Act* (Joey), *Ms. Holmes* (Geoffrey Lestrade), *Newsies* (Pulitzer). He would love to thank the entire cast and crew for giving him this opportunity, and a special thanks to Sophia Burik for her support and being an amazing director! He would also like to thank his family for giving him their all and never giving up on him.

FRANK SEITZ

(Kyle) is a junior Acting BFA Theatre Arts major here at Five Towns! He has been acting since high-school and has studied under great teachers such as David Krasner, Kaelem Von Camper, Pat Shay and Mary Archibald. His previous FTC credits include: Jason in *Clyde's* and Artie in *House of Blue Leaves*.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Sophia Burik
Stage Manager Lilly Genovese
Technical Director Joe Kenny
Lighting Designer Sammi Rooney
Sound Designer Lilly Genovese
Costume Designer Jonny Oscarson

Props Zara Martinez-Zolotor,
 Sophia Burik and Jillson McGarry
Set Design Joe Kenny
Social Media Manager Ella Beiser
Light and Sound Operator Lilly Genovese
Promotion Photography Daniel Garcia

PRODUCTION CREW

SCENIC CREW	<p>Master Carpenter - Katherine Dice and Frank Seitz General Carpenters - Cody Meares, Marcus Gallatin, Karim Carpenter, Mia Leigh, B Sam Adler, Lucien Tanner</p>
LIGHTING CREW	<p>Master Electrician - Lilly Genovese Electricians - Bear Williams, Mya Hall, Jeremiah Watts, Charles Hauser, Frederic Rupnarian, Sammi Rooney</p>
PAINT CREW	<p>Scenic Charge - A'Shya Dawson and Jodi Jordan General Artists - Gabriella Martin, Jesse Gunnell, Kayla Prashad, Omar Sealey, Demetrius Reveil, Kayla McKinney</p>
PROPS CREW	<p>Props Master - Zara Martinez- Zolotor and Maggie Switzer Props Crew - David Whitehead, Sydney Rosenberg, Taylor Bell, Cameron Maxwell, Emily Keehner, Jason Torres, Alex Fabrizio</p>
COSTUME CREW	<p>Shop/Wardrobe Supervisors - Amaya Hall and Symone Hammond Dressers/Wardrobe/Stitches - G Clark, Stacey Weiner, Josiah Prescod, Jillson McGarry, Ashlyn Daniels, Calvin Reich, Sophia Burik</p>

THEATRE DIVISION FACULTY & STAFF

David Krasner, Chair	Richard Harris	Joel Bernard
Mitchell Walker	Jenna Giaonne	Derell Edward Jones
Joseph Kenny	Lee Knight	Daniel Barrett
Shorey Walker	Monica Athenas	Laura Alberts
Mary Archbold	Craig Coyle	Ray Rodriguez
Patrick Shay	Tommy Mcdowell	Emily Peck
Kevin Burns	Cristina Russo	Colleen Murray
Julia Krowiak	Audrey Belle Adams	Amira Baigina
Rockelle Martin-Vecchio	Duangkamon Wattanask	Emily Boyd Dahab

PRODUCTION STAFF

SOPHIA BURIK (Director) This is Sophia's fourth production at Five Towns College and her second production here as a director. She is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major who focuses primarily in performance but loves directing as well. Her previous directed project was *Ordinary Days*, where she navigated the struggles of double casting. Some of her favorite roles include: Katherine (*Newsies*), Rona (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Mama Morton (*Chicago*), and Annas (*Jesus Christ Superstar*). She would like to thank her family, friends, and mentors who constantly support her crazy ideas. Instagram: @soph.burik

LILLY GENOVESE (Stage Manager), a junior BFA Musical Theatre major first found her love for stage managing after assistant stage managing on several different productions. She is absolutely thrilled to have a chance to further explore the technical process of working a show as the SM! Additionally, she is incredibly excited to tackle sound design for the first time! Much love to everyone involved in *Exit* and she hopes you all enjoy the show!!

JOE KENNY (Technical Director) is the Director of Technical Theatre at Five Towns College and is excited to make his FTC debut with this production. Joe has spent many years as a scenic designer and technical director across Long Island and NYC, with past roles including Lead Carpenter at Atlantic Theatre Company, Technical Director at Astoria Performing Arts Center, and Associate Technical Director at the John W.

Engeman Theater. His favorite projects have ranged from designing elaborate 1960s French apartments to reimagining a small community theatre's journey into the world of Oz, and creating a robust forest for *Into the Woods*. He loves the challenge of building worlds onstage—whether that means crafting the big picture or just making sure the crew gets safely through strike. Joe is thrilled to bring that same mix of creativity and collaboration to the students of FTC.

SAMMI ROONEY (Lighting Designer) is a senior BFA Musical Theatre student excited to be light designing their second show at Five Towns College. They are beyond thrilled to be a part of this amazing production team, and hopes everyone enjoys the show!

JONNY OSCARSON (Costume Designer) is currently a senior at Five Towns College pursuing her BFA in Musical Theatre. She is very excited for her first time being a costume designer! Her past hair and makeup credits include *Hairspray* (Five Towns College), *Dog Sees God* (Five Towns College), *Mean Girls* (Palisades Character High School), and *Mamma Mia!* (Palisades Charter High School). If you want to see what else Jonny brings to the stage, follow her on Instagram: @Jonny.Iris

ZARA MARTINEZ-ZOLOTOR (Prop Master) This is Zara's first time working independently as a designer for a show! She's so grateful for the opportunity to get out of her comfort zone with her creativity.



UPCOMING FALL 2025 PERFORMANCES

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF HOBOKEN
PROUDLY PRESENT

NUNSENSE

A MUSICAL COMEDY: BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
DAN GOGGIN

October 23-26

WE HELP YOUR HELP

NUNSENSE is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals. www.concordtheatricals.com

November 6-9

STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S

SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

November 20-23

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY **STEPHEN SONDHEIM**
BOOK BY **HUGH WHEELER**
FROM AN ADAPTATION BY **CHRISTOPHER BOND**
ORIGINALLY DIRECTED ON BROADWAY
BY **HAROLD PRINCE**
ORCHESTRATIONS BY **JONATHAN TUNICK**

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED ON BROADWAY BY RICHARD BARR, CHARLES WOODWARD,
ROBERT FRYER, MARY LEA JOHNSON, MARTIN RICHARDS IN ASSOCIATION
WITH DEAN AND JUDY MANOS | **SWEENEY TODD**

Sweeney Todd is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

VOICES OF FTC | Wed, Dec. 3

**FTC WIND ENSEMBLE & SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Mon, Dec. 8**

JAZZ NIGHT | Wed, Dec. 10



SCAN FOR TICKETS
FTC.EDU/FTCPAG