

The Stageless Players present

# LEGALLY BLONDE

*The Musical*

**April 1-2, 2016**  
**7:00 p.m., Sleith Hall**  
**Wood Auditorium**

**Matinee performance**  
**April 2 at 1:00 p.m.**

Directed by Hillary Haft Bucs  
Choreographed by Katelyn LaValley  
Musical Direction by Larry Picard

Book by Heather Hach  
Music and Lyrics by  
Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and  
the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture



WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY | **WNE**



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Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe  
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Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dori Berinstein,  
James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy  
Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWPM  
Group, Hendel/Wiesenfeld, Goldberg/Binder, Stern/Meyer, Lane/-  
Comley, Bartner-Jenkins/Nocciolino and Warren Trepp. Produced in  
association with MGM Onstage, Darcie Denkert and Dean Stolber.

## **LEGALLY BLONDE**

Is presented through special arrangement with MTI (Music Theatre  
International). All authorized performance materials are also supplied  
by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

The video taping or other video or audio recording  
of this production is strictly prohibited.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Legally Blonde* is Stageless Players' 5th musical in as many years. Since my first musical at Western New England, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, we have grown so much and keep growing. We started with a talented cast of 11 dedicated students with a strong, but small tech crew, and now we have a cast of 27 actors and 21 technical crew members. *Legally Blonde* turned out to be the perfect show for this group of students because the show galvanized the actors to become a strong and supportive ensemble, building off of much of their work from the fall production of *Wizard of Oz*. I would often joke with my amazing stage managers (Liz Langelly and Michaela Carter) that I did not know why the majority of the cast would show up to every single rehearsal when they were not even called for that evening or Saturday afternoon. Sometimes I would only call two actors for a rehearsal and 10 or more actors would appear. The reason, I was told, and then observed myself, was because everyone enjoyed being part of this production and enjoyed being together as a family. Theatre has the power to bring people together, and in tumultuous times, Theatre has the power to heal and to remind all of us of our greater humanity.

*Legally Blonde* is based on the popular 2001 film of the same name starring Reese Witherspoon, which was adopted from the novel by Amanda Brown. The musical opened on Broadway in 2007, and aired a live performance for MTV the same year. Many of our students are familiar with the show because they have seen it on MTV, YouTube, or either participated in the production or saw it in high school. This is a very popular show performed all over the world. I stress this point because the themes are so important. You will see that *Legally Blonde* showcases stereotypes, some of which might be offensive at first glance. The purpose of dramatizing such stereotypes is not to uphold their importance, but to combat and shatter them through the themes of perseverance, self-esteem, enduring friendship, the incredible power of education, and love.

As director, I must state that the concept of Theatre as a collaborative art form is absolutely true in our case. We could not have done this show without the talent and passion of our choreographer, Katelyn LaValley, and our Musical Director, Larry Picard. This is our fourth show together. I have to give a special shout-out to our rehearsal accompanist, Michael Sampson, who has now completed his fifth show with us. The sets, lights, and costumes all came together through the hard work and endless hours from our students overseen by Student Technical Director, Kayla Van Buren, with some additional help and oversight by professional carpenters, Bill Sweeney and Gerald LaValley. Thank you to the Stageless Players E-board this year who are just beyond awesome. I love you all!

**The students have put their hearts, souls, and countless hours into this production. Now it is time for us to share this show with you, the audience. Enjoy!**

**Hillary Haft Bucs, M.F.A**

# CAST

Elle Woods .....	Elizabeth Grosse
Emmett Forrest .....	Steven O'Brien Jr.
Paulette Bonafonté .....	Alexandria Escribano
Warner Huntington III.....	Jesse Walters
Vivienne Kensington/Saleswoman.....	Kristen Dansereau
Professor Callahan .....	Adam Deshefy
Brooke Wyndham/Delta Nu .....	Alexis McCrae
Serena/Video Girl .....	Gennah Borg
Margot .....	Kate Armstrong
Pilar .....	Kelly Clancy
Enid Hoopes .....	Victor Ho
Elle's Dad/Winthrop/Ensemble .....	Jeffrey Massicott
Elle's Mom/Ensemble .....	Natasha Glynn
Store Manager/Ensemble .....	Natasha Mercado-Santana
Grandmaster Chad/Ensemble .....	Jimmy Sullivan
Aaron Shultz/Ensemble .....	Ryan Glynn
Padamadan/Carlos/Ensemble.....	Daniel Hernandez
Whitney/Judge/Ensemble .....	Ava Rule
Kate/Ensemble .....	Erin Cristi
Dewey/Lowell/Ensemble .....	Zachary Ledwell
Kyle the UPS Guy/Ensemble .....	Kyle Homberg
Nikos Argitakos/Kiki the Stylist/Ensemble .....	Dominick DeCarlo
Pforzheimer/TV Reporter/Ensemble .....	Tyler Dow
Chutney Wyndham .....	Aoife O'Connell
Jet Blue Pilot/Ensemble.....	Austin Baacke
Prison Guard/Ensemble .....	Alan Hess
D.A. Joseph Riley/Ensemble .....	Grant Felenstein

# TECHNICAL AND DESIGN CREW

Tech Director.....	Kayla Van Buren
Assistant Technical Directors.....	Stephen Giarrusso and Alexis Van Buren
Stage Managers .....	Elizabeth Langley and Michaela Carter
Costume Coordinator .....	Angela Foley
Costume Crew .....	Victoria Durrett
Costume Coordinator for Elle and Vivienne .....	Kristen Dansereau
Bench Construction .....	Bill Sweeney
Master Carpenter.....	Gerald LaValley
Props Coordinator .....	Bella Garzone
Props Crew .....	Melissa Roche
Lights Crew.....	Jared Duval and Max Magid
Sound Crew .....	Philip Marx
Stage Crew .....	Marc Castiello, Erin Conti, Mark Shelanskas, Hannah Gumbs and Ashley DeBlois
Marketing Crew .....	Marc Castiello
Photography .....	Victoria Durrett
Ticket Sales .....	Mark Shelanskas
Hair and Make-up .....	Katie Betlej

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## PIT BAND

Pianist .....	Larry Picard
Choreographer.....	Katelyn LaValley
Rehearsal Pianist .....	Michael Sampson
Guitar .....	Rob Adam
Bass .....	Justin Rodzen
Percussion .....	Dominick DeCarlo

# CAST BIOS



**Kate Armstrong** is a freshman Pre-pharmacy major from Bolton, CT, and is thrilled to be making her debut with Stageless Players. She most recently was seen as Logainne in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* at Bolton High School, and in recent years has had the pleasure of performing as Audrey in *Little Shop of Horrors* and Penny in *Urinetown*. Kate is a proud nerdfighter, avid *Parks and Rec* fan, and a mac and cheese enthusiast, as well as a member of the cross country team.



**Austin Baacke** is a first year Biomedical Engineering major at Western New England University. In high school, Austin played Elder Maxfield in *Country Gothic*, Joe Summers in *The Lottery*, Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Aegeus in *Medea*. He never understood why he always played authority figures because he thinks he really shouldn't have that responsibility. Austin is honored to be a part of his first Stageless show and certainly hopes that it isn't his last. Break a leg everyone!



**Katie Betlej** is the one woman hair and makeup department for the Stageless Players and has been a member of the tech crew for a year. She also serves on the Stageless Executive Board as the comfort coordinator. Katie is pursuing a degree in Elementary Education and Psychology. Ultimately she aspires to be a teacher for students with severe special needs. She wishes the cast and crew the best of luck and hopes you enjoy the show!



OH MY GOD YOU GUYS! **Gennah Borg** is a senior Communication major with a concentration in Public Relations major and Theatre minor from Long Island, NY. She joined Stageless Players her junior year, her best decision to date. Gennah has performed in *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*; *Curtains*; *The Vagina Monologues*; and *A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant, and A Prayer*, which she coordinated and directed. Gennah would like to give a huge shout out and thank you to her friends and family who came to support her, as well as to her Delta Nu sorority sisters!



**Michaela Carter** is a sophomore Arts and Entertainment Management major from Springfield, MA. She has been involved with the Stageless Players since her freshman year and has participated as a member of the crew for the productions of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, *Curtains*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. She worked on a number of plays in high school and this will be her 12th production. She wishes all cast and crew the best of luck!



**Kelly Clancy** is a junior Psychology major. She has been a part of previous shows with the Stageless Players such as *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* and *Check Please!* She is very excited to be in her first musical here at Western New England! She wants to thank the cast and crew, her friends, and family (especially Mom and Dad) for all of their support this semester! Go Delta Nu's!



**Erin Cristì** is a sophomore pursuing a degree in Communication major with a concentration in Public Relations and minors in Media and International Business. She has been involved with Stageless Players since her freshman year, working as costume and tech crew in the production of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculation* and *The Wizard of Oz*. She was in a number of musicals in high school, including *Fiddler on the Roof*. She is very excited to be involved in the play this semester as a member of the cast and wishes all of the actors and crew members luck!



**Kristen Dansereau** is a junior Neuroscience major and the secretary of the Stageless Players. She has been involved with Stageless for a year, playing an ensemble member in *Curtains* and the Good Witches of the North and South in *The Wizard of Oz*. You can also find her performing with Improv on the Rocks, procrastinating, drawing, and, of course, sleeping. She sends lots of love to her family for all of their support and to her surrogate Stageless family for all of their hard work on what is bound to be an incredible show!



**Dominick DeCarlo** is a Communication major in his third year here at Western New England. He has been involved in all productions by the Stageless Players in some way, with his favorite show so far being *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, as he says that it is the show that pushed him into changing his career path from engineering towards comedy. He is a member of Improv on the Rocks, the Western New England improvisational comedy troupe, and is the winner of the 2015 Last Comic Standing competition that was held last semester. He hopes you'll enjoy seeing him on *Saturday Night Live* someday.



**Adam Deshefy** is taking part in his second production with Stageless Players. Last semester, he played the role of the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*. Adam aspires to become a voice actor in the future, hoping to work on a variety of products such as advertising, cartoons, and video games. This play has been a great deal of fun for making friends and developing as an actor. He is thankful to his director, instructors, his family, and the entire cast for putting on and supporting this wonderful production.



**Tyler Dow** is a freshman Sociology major. He just got involved with the Stageless Players this semester, and he is very excited to join the community. He has been doing theatre for the last six years, both at his high school and in community theatres. He has almost exclusively worked on the backstage crew before and is a little anxious but mostly looking forward to being the one in front of the curtain for once!



**Alexandria Escribano**, President of Stageless Players, is thrilled to return to the stage for her last undergraduate production. This past fall she had the pleasure of codirecting *The Wizard of Oz*. For four years Stageless has been her family. She hopes to return to Western New England as a graduate student and continue on with her love of theatre. This spring she will graduate with a bachelor's in English and Secondary Education, with a Theatre minor. No words can express the love she will always have for this club and all the people involved. Thank you for making her senior year an incredible one.



**Grant Felenstein** is a sophomore Communication major who has been involved with numerous Stageless productions including *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* as The Wolf and The King, *The Wizard of Oz* as one of the three Ozites, and *Curtains* as a member of the ensemble. Here, he not only plays part of the ensemble but also the D.A. opposite of Callahan in the trial against Brooke Windham; you know, that guy who spoke after the TV reporter? Yeah, that's him. He wishes his fellow Stageless performers the best of luck and that after this we're going back to Jakku.



**Natasha Glynn** is a sophomore English and Secondary Education major. She has been involved with Stageless Players since the production of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*. She was in several shows in high school such as *Hairspray*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *In the Heights*. She has also been involved in the production of several Shakespeare plays in high school. She is very excited to be performing in *Legally Blonde*, a musical she has enjoyed for a long time, and wishes the cast and crew well this semester.



**Ryan Glynn** is a freshman in the College of Business. He is excited to be involved with Stageless Players, and has been involved in theatre productions since middle school. In the past, he has filled roles such as Schroeder in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Buzz in *Rebel Without a Cause*, and The Scarecrow in Western New England's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. He wishes all of his friends and cast members the best of luck tonight and in the future.



**Elizabeth Grosse** is a senior Communication major concentrating in Media Theory and Production with a Theatre minor from Plainville, CT. She's been involved with the Stageless Players all four years while at Western New England. Performing on stage has been the highlight of her life since she began dancing at the age of three. She'd like to thank her friends, family, and loved ones for supporting her always. This cast has made her last show at Western New England a great one, and she doesn't know what she'd do without them. Get tissues ready, because she'll be happily sobbing at the end of the show.



**Daniel Hernandez** is a sophomore Communication major concentrating in Public Relations. This is his second musical performance at Western New England University and the most challenging performance in his theatre career. Last semester, he acted as the Cowardly Lion in Stageless's performance of *The Wizard of Oz*. He looks forward to playing a wide variety of characters in *Legally Blonde* such as Sundeep Agrawal Padamadan, Carlos, Frat Guy, Female Inmate, and a Cheerleader. Enjoy the show!



**Alan Hess** is a junior Mechanical Engineering major. He has been involved with Stageless Players since his freshman year, being part of the stage crew and the spotlight operator for the productions *Urinetown*, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, *Curtains*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. This semester, he's now a part of the cast, and he's eager to perform in *Legally Blonde* alongside the rest of his new friends on stage. He hopes to be a part of more Stageless Players productions and he hopes the cast and crew will continue to have as much fun as he had.



**Victor Ho** is a freshman Pre-pharmacy major. This is his first semester of being in Stageless Players. His only other theatre experience is being part of the ensemble for his high school's production of *Legally Blonde*, coincidentally. He hopes he can do the role of Enid Hoopes justice, even though he is not even a girl, and help out in creating a great production for everyone!



Welcome to the show! **Kyle Homberg** is a senior Secondary Education and Chemistry major. This is his first semester with the Stageless Players and he could not be more excited to work with everyone! Kyle is also a part of the improvisational comedy troupe on campus, Improv on the Rocks. He played soccer, volleyball, and also fenced in high school. Kyle would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck to everyone in the show. LET'S GO!



**Elizabeth Langley** is a freshman Neuroscience major. She participated as a member of the crew in the production of *The Wizard of Oz*. She was in a number of plays in high school, including *The Great Gatsby* and *Rebel Without A Cause*. She is very excited to be the stage manager for this musical and wishes all of the actors the best of luck!



**Zach Ledwell** is a junior Psychology major. This is his first performance with the Stageless Players and he is excited to perform. He has been an active member of Improv on the Rocks, the resident improvisational comedy troupe, for three years. He loves making people laugh, and hopes the musical will make everyone laugh at least once during the show. He is happy to have been accepted into the Stageless family and gives a special shout out to Audience Member 100!



**Jeffrey Massicott** is a junior Forensic Chemistry major and is also the current vice president of Stageless Players. Jeffrey has participated in theatre since junior year of high school, and his first show was *Legally Blonde*, where he worked spotlight. He is extremely excited that he is finally performing in the show and finds it humorous that his nickname of "Stageless Dad" has finally manifested itself as a part in a show. Jeff has made sure that dad jokes have been in abundance. He couldn't be more proud of his Stageless family and hopes you all enjoy the show!



**Alexis McCrae** is pursuing her interest of Criminal Justice under the concentration of Criminal Investigations as a sophomore at Western New England University. This is Alexis's third show in Stageless Players, and she is excited to perform in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*. Alexis has also performed in *Curtains* and *The Brothers' Grimm Spectaculathon*. Prior to attending the University, Alexis acted in seven theatrical shows in high school including *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Seeking Sleeping Beauty*.



**Natasha Mercado-Santana** is a junior Marketing Communication/Advertising major, with a minor in Art. This is her third year in Stageless Players. She was in *Urinetown* and *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon*, and was part of tech crew for *Curtains*. Highly involved on campus, Natasha is also a member of the Marketing Association, United and Mutually Equal, and Spiritual Life. She has always had a passion for theatre, and in high school Natasha was in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Ax of Murder*, and a series of ten-minute shorts called *Plays in Ten*, among other productions. Enjoy the show!



**Steve O'Brien Jr.** is a sophomore Communication major who has been involved with the Stageless Players' productions of *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* and *The Wizard of Oz* (as the Wicked Witch of the West). He has also been involved with productions like *12 Angry Men*, *King Lear*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *Oklahoma!* during high school. Stageless is his family, and he's honored and excited to be given the responsibility and privilege of playing such an integral character as Emmett.



**Aoife O'Connell** is a freshman majoring in Neuroscience. She participated in Stageless Players' *Wizard of Oz* last semester. In the past, she has participated in school productions and musicals, as well as a small theatre group in which she performed a monologue from the podcast *Welcome to Night Vale*. You may (or may not) recognize her playing Chutney Windham in *Legally Blonde*. She is happy to be a part of this show and hopes that everyone is excited to see it.



**Ava Rule** is a freshman Computer Science major from Marlborough, MA. This is her first year in Stageless Players, however, this is not her first musical. In high school she acted in *The Little Mermaid*. In addition to Stageless, she is also involved in Student Senate and the University's improvisational comedy troupe, Improv on the Rocks. She is very excited for the musical and wishes the actors and stage crew good luck. Break a leg!



**Jimmy Sullivan** is a freshman History major from CT. He joined the Stageless Players last fall, playing the King of the Winged Monkeys in *The Wizard of Oz*. Jimmy is very excited to be participating in this production of *Legally Blonde*, especially acting as the character Grandmaster Chad. He wants to thank his Stageless family for all of the great times so far! There will certainly be more to come! And as for the seniors, Jimmy wants to let them know that they will be dearly missed! Enjoy the show everyone!



**Kayla Van Buren** is a first year Biomedical Engineering major. She is thrilled to be a part of her second performance with Stageless Players and appreciates the opportunity she's had to step up to E-board as technical director. Prior to *The Wizard of Oz*, Kayla was heavily involved in shows throughout her high school career as both a stage manager and an actor. She extends her best wishes to all involved in the show and thanks everyone in Stageless for all of their kindness and hard work. Break a leg!



**Jesse Walters** is a sophomore Computer Science major. This is his fourth role in a Stageless Players production. He is currently the treasurer for Stageless Players and is actively involved in the improvisational comedy troupe, Improv on the Rocks. Previous musical roles include Aaron Fox in *Curtains*, Detective Cioffi in *Curtains*, and Eddie Flagrante in *Zombie Prom*. He would like to wish Carly Mastriano the best of luck in her production of *Our Town* at UConn.

# STAGELESS PLAYERS EXECUTIVE BOARD

Advisor .....	Hillary Bucs
President .....	Alexandria Escribano
Vice President .....	Jeffrey Massicott
Secretary .....	Kristen Dansereau
Treasurer .....	Jesse Walters
Publicity .....	Elizabeth Grosse
Technical Director.....	Kayla Van Buren
Comfort Coordinator .....	Katie Betlej

# THEATRE CLASSES FOR FALL 2016

**All THTR classes can satisfy an Arts (Aesthetic) credit  
and be applied towards a Theatre minor**

**THTR 101:** Acting I

**THTR 153:** Stageless Players

**THTR 220:** Improvisational Comedy I

**THTR 290:** Playwriting (Writing Intensive Credit)

For information on Theatre courses, contact  
Professor Hillary Bucs at **Hillary.Bucs@wne.edu**.

# SPECIAL THANKS

Dean Maureen Keizer  
Melissa Lambert  
Tom Donovan  
Claire Wright  
Dr. Anita Dancs  
Bill Sweeney  
William Landry  
Eddie Ortiz  
Sarah Babski  
Gerald LaValley  
Linda and Earle Armstrong  
Michelina Liquori-Carter  
Alexandria Dean  
Michael Borg and Paula Borg  
College of Arts and Sciences  
William Arnold III and Media Services  
Sarah Stephens and the Division of Marketing and External Affairs  
Facilities Management  
Campus Events  
Office of First Year Student and Students in Transition  
All of the people who made this possible!