

MERCURY



Written by **STEVE YOCKEY**

Directed by **RACHEL GREIDINGER** and **CHRIS BOHAN**

Kalberer Theatre at Maltz Performing Arts Center

February 20, 21, 26, 27, 28 at 7:30 p.m.

February 22, March 1 at 3 p.m.



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
College of Arts and Sciences

Theater

The Case Western Reserve University
Department of Theater Presents

Mercury

Written by: Steve Yockey

Directed by: Rachel Greidinger and Chris Bohan

Scenic Design

Jill Davis

Costume Design

Angelina Herin

Assistant Costume Design

Claire Carducci

Lighting Design

Adam Ditzel

Sound Design

Nicholas Drashner

Assistant Sound Design

Ava Tallarida

Intimacy Coordinator

Eliza Ladd Schwarz

Content Warning:
Graphic sexual language, violence, references to harming animals.
14★ with parent recommended.

SETTING

Various locations in a town outside of Portland, OR.

TIME

The present.

CAST

PAMELA.....Johanna Perry
HEATHER.....Abigail Gilman
ALICIA.....Evie Oehlers
OLIVE.....Reighan Bean
NICK.....Dwight “Alex” Alexander III
BRIAN.....Alexander Jones
"SAM".....Kosta Volas

PRODUCTION CREW

Stage Manager.....	Daishanay Williams
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Sadie Belding
Prop Master.....	Parker Crigger
Wig Design.....	Mary Coulter, Caitie Martin
Light Board Op.....	Asha Kartha
Sound Op.....	Gryffin Hauenstein
Wardrobe #1.....	Margot McCann
Wardrobe #2.....	Joon Lee
Makeup Artist.....	Jack Exline
Backstage Crew #1.....	Abigail Sundet
Backstage Crew #2.....	Isabella Teter
Backstage Crew #3.....	Jannah Bosch
Scene Shop Technicians.....	Justine Moore, Sean Cross, Ella Merrill, Jonah Halloran, Amanda Hsu, John Shillingsburg, Estelle Pikus, Mia Perez, Owen Wallace, Nicky Zhai, Ella Ungaretti-Levy, Daniel Patton, Jannah Bosch
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Dominic Monczewski, Elizabeth Odife, Jessica Pan, Sophie Bruch, Karma Hairston, Peggy Lin, Mary Coulter, Lorelei Fontaine, Sydney Raby, Ava Bee
Scenic Art.....	Students enrolled in THTR 260, 105, and 185
Construction and Lighting Crew.....	Students enrolled in THTR 105, 185 and the CWRU/ Cleveland Play House Graduate Acting Ensemble

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Mercury is the perfect sample of how modern playwriting is continuing to expand and develop, stretching the limits of what theatre can be. *Mercury* utilizes a challengingly distinct tone - combining comedy with thriller elements - to create an immersive, action-packed story that hooks our audience while telling a truly sociolinguistic story about relationships and love. This is a play about dominance: how we may take it, where we can find it, what we are willing to lose to maintain it. *Mercury* doesn't introduce "heroes" and "villains"; instead it asks both its characters and its audience just how far they are willing to go to gain control over both themselves and those around them. We are called to consider what we have done to maintain dominance in our lives, and - given the opportunity - what we could do. When it comes to love and war, can we exist as "co-dominant" parties, or is it in our nature to make way for our desires to dominate, permitting ourselves to be blinded by power and vengeance?

In astrological terms, Mercury governs communication, intellect, and thought processes. It is the "messenger planet", ruling how information and feelings are shared and processed through conversation, technology, and travel. When Mercury is in retrograde, these communicative abilities fall out of sync, leading to difficulties with trust, control, and communication, particularly in close relationships. Instead, it brings relationships to their breaking point, as we seek to dominate those we are closest to. In STEM terms (for our engineering-minded friends), our Mercury barometers are measuring such high pressure levels, they are beginning to crack and shatter, as an almost claustrophobic force of pressure to dominate - to contain ourselves and our partners - changes us irreversibly.

For Marin. Who loved any story with queer characters, quirky style, and PLENTY of stage blood.

-Rachel Greidinger (Director)

DIRECTOR BIOS



Rachel Greidinger (Director) is a fourth-year Theater major with minors in Mathematics and Communication Science. She has a background in directing, acting, and stage management; and was lucky enough to perform 7 times on the CWRU stage, credits include Mollie in *The Mousetrap* and Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She would like to thank Chris for his incredible mentorship and faith in her, her entire production team for bringing her vision to life, and her brilliant cast for their trust and dedication. For Marin.

Chris Bohan (Director) has been with the CWRU department of theater since 2012 and teaches acting to the UG and MFA students. He is a lead teacher with the Great Lakes Michael Chekhov Consortium. Last season, he played Mr. Bennet and Charlotte Lucas in CPH's *Pride and Prejudice*, and will be in *Primary Trust* in February. Other Cleveland credits include *Doubt*, *The Pitman*



Painters and *Glengarry Glen Ross* (opposite Austin Pendleton) at The Beck Center, and *How to be A Respectable Junkie*, *Peter and the Starcatchers*, *The Lyons*, and *The Flick* at Dobama. Recent film credits include *Unsinkable* and *Lost and Found in Cleveland*. MFA: Wayne State University. BA: Lehigh University. AEA. SAG-AFTRA.

CAST BIOS



Johanna Perry (Pamela) is a third-year majoring in Political Science and Cognitive Science with a minor in Theater. Over the past few semesters, she has acted in shows with the Theater department (*The Harvest*) and with Players' Theatre Group (*Melancholy Play*, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Tick, Tick...Boom!*, *Fun Home*). She is incredibly grateful to Rachel, Chris, and everyone who worked on this production for making the show come to life.

Abigail Gilman (Heather) is thrilled to be back on the Kalberer stage. She's a Political Science and Theater double major with a Directing concentration. Previous credits include *Men on Boats* (Hall), *Silent Sky* (Williamina), *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Maggie), and *Cymbeline* (Imogen), as well as directing *The Harvest* in Fall 2025. Much love and thanks to Rachel, Chris, and this wonderful cast and crew!



Evie Oehlers (Alicia) is excited to be doing such an amazing production after spending last semester in London, studying at LAMDA. She previously worked with the department in *Men on Boats* (Goodman/Asa), with PTG in *The Revolutionists* (Charlotte Corday), and with Footlighters in *Heathers the Musical* (Heather McNamara). She would like to thank everyone involved in this show and sends all the love in the world!

Reighan Bean (Olive) is thrilled to be in her third Theater Department production at CWRU. She previously acted in *Men on Boats* (Bradley) and *The Harvest* (Ada). Reighan is a second-year Theater, Finance, and Marketing triple major and is also pursuing a film career. She would like to thank the cast, directors, and crew, as well as everyone who came to see the show.



CAST BIOS



Dwight "Alex" Alexander III (Nick) is a senior majoring in Psychology and Theater. They are so excited to return to the Kalberer stage for their final performance with the CWRU Theater Department! Their previous credits include Avery in *The Flick* with Player's Theatre Group, Tom in *The Harvest*, Angelo in *The Comedy of Errors*, *Death in Everybody* (PTG), Mason Adams in *John Proctor is the Villain*, and Lendall in *Almost, Maine*. They would love to thank this cast, their directors, the crew, production team, their friends, their family, and you for being a part of this experience!

Alexander Jones (Brian) is a Theater and English major here at Case and is excited to be in his second department show. He was previously seen in *Comedy of Errors* (Dromio of Ephesus), as well as a variety of Players' Theatre Group productions. He would like to thank his friends and family for their unwavering support.



Kosta Volas ("Sam") is thrilled to be performing in *Mercury* this semester. He is currently a junior majoring in Electrical Engineering and minoring in Theater. Previous Theater Department Credits Include: *The Harvest* (Josh), *The Mousetrap* (Paravacini), *Cabaret* (Victor). He is also involved in IMPROVment, Case Western Reserve's premiere improv troupe. Outside of school and theatre,

Kosta is a member of the Greek Orthodox church and the St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers. He would like to thank Rachel and Chris, his fellow castmates, crew, and designers for their hard work and for making this an incredible experience, his parents, family, friends, and the North Canton Playhouse for their unwavering support and love.

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BIOS



Daishanay Williams (Stage Manager) is a fourth-year student studying Theater, Film, and English. Her previous credits with the department include *Dancing at Lughnasa*, *The Moors*, *Cabaret*, *Silent Sky*, and *Men on Boats*; she has also been involved with several PTG shows. Daishanay is grateful to conclude her time with the CWRU Theater Department with such incredible directors, cast, crew, and creative team.

Sadie Belding (Assistant Stage Manager) is a third-year Civil Engineering major with a minor in Theater Design. She got into technical theater through several productions in high school. She worked as the sound board operator for *Electra* and more recently as assistant stage manager for *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



Nicholas Drashner (Sound Design) serves as Associate Professor and resident sound and projection designer in the Department of Theater at CWRU. His design credits include productions with companies such as Cleveland Play House, Northern Stage, Dobama Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Primary Stages at 59E59 Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, East West Players, and Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble. He received an MFA in Sound Design and a BA in Interdisciplinary Computing in the Arts from University of California, San Diego.

Ava Tallarida (Assistant Sound Design) "Ave" is a third-year student studying Psychology, Cognitive Science, and Theater (Directing). Previous credits in the Theater Department include sound designing *The Mousetrap* and *The Harvest*, and upcoming they will be assistant directing *Pippin*. Nick Drashner has been a mentor figure for Ave in the past, so getting to work on a project with him was an absolute blast and they are super grateful for the opportunity!



DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BIOS



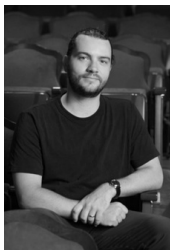
Jill Davis (Scenic Design) is an Associate Professor at CWRU and serves as Resident Scenic Designer and for the Department of Theater. CWRU Department of Theater set designs include *Cabaret*, *Electra*, *Blood at the Root*, *Almost, Maine*, and *Arcadia*; and lighting designs include: *John Proctor is the Villain*, *Proof*, *The King Stag*. CWRU/ CPH MFA Acting Ensemble set designs include *The Seagull*, *Macbeth*, *Clybourne Park*, *Too True to Be Good*. Professional designs include *Every Brilliant Thing* (Cleveland Play House), *Chez Feydeau* (The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London), *A Doll's House* (The American Stage Theater Company), *The Other Place*, *Hurricane Diane*, *Marjorie Prime*, *The Flick*, (and others) for Dobama Theatre, *A Doll's House Part 2* and *Doubt* for Beck Center for the Arts.

Angelina Herin (Costume Design) is a Cleveland, Ohio based costume, wig, and makeup designer with roots in the Pacific Northwest. She is pleased to have her work presented at many venues, including Cleveland Play House, the Seattle Opera, Creede Repertory Theatre, American Folklore Theatre. Montana Repertory Theatre, Texas Shakespeare Festival, and Theater at Monmouth. In addition, Angelina has worked with several television/production companies as a makeup artist and stylist for national and regional programming. Since 2011, she has been the Resident Costume Designer and an Associate Professor of Theater at Case Western Reserve University. www.angelinaherin.com



Claire Carducci (Assistant Costume Design) is a third-year studying Theater and Psychology. They have previously been seen onstage in the Theater Department's Productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Comedy of Errors* and are so excited for this new adventure in design. Claire would like to extend a thank you to Angelina for believing in her classroom designs and extending the opportunity. Enjoy the show!

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION BIOS



Adam Ditzel (Lighting Design) is a Cleveland based designer and programmer who is designing his first show at CWRU. Recent theatre credits include designs for Cleveland Playhouse/CWRU MFA, Baldwin Wallace, Short North Stage, Karamu House, Dobama Theatre, Cain Park, Beck Center, Near West Theatre, Lakeland Civic Theatre, and Heidelberg University. Recent dance designs include works for Ohio Contemporary Ballet, Ballet Theatre of Ohio, Cleveland Ballet, and Inlet Dance Theatre. Adam is the Resident Lighting Designer at Magical Theatre Company, and is the Lighting Director for the instrumental progressive trio, Animals As Leaders. He holds a degree in Lighting Design from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM).

Eliza Ladd Schwarz (Intimacy Coordinator) is a director, performer, stage writer, song maker, and movement director from NYC who teaches Movement, Acting, and Devising Theater at CWRU/CPH MFA. In addition to contributing to numerous CWRU productions, she directed *Men on Boats* and worked on *Middletown*, *The Tempest*, *The Cherry Orchard*, and *Much Ado About Nothing* at



Cleveland Play House. This Spring Eliza is working on *Epiphany*, *Primary Trust*, teaching a new class - THTR 351 Live Sound Action: Learning at the Crossroads of Theatrical Training and Spiritual Practice and offering *Digging Deep: A Pop-Up Memorial Performance* at the Midwest Climate Summit (Mar 30). www.elizaladd.com

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER

Department Chair.....Jeffrey Ullom
Artistic Director.....David Vegh
Managing Director.....Angelina Herin
Administrator.....DeBorah Hamilton
Production Manager & Technical Director.....Homer J. Farr
Scene Shop Manager & Asst. Technical Director.....Nathan Kunst
Costume Shop Manager.....Rainie J. Wilkes
Theater Coordinator.....Gregory Przybylak
House Manager.....Ashley Rosinski
Social Media Manager.....Reighan Bean
Box Office Assistants.....Alexander Jones, Estelle Pikus

BEHIND THE SCENES

The Theater Program gratefully acknowledges the generosity of Friends of Theater contributors and the following special support for the 2025–2026 Season:

Nadine Miles Endowment Fund

Designated departmental support for special projects.

Flora Stone Mather Alumnae Association

Scholarship support and guest lectureships for our undergraduate students.

Gerard and Marie Bechhold Gentile Endowment Fund

Major new acquisitions in Technical Theater and Design.

Malcolm and Louise Elsoffer Endowment Fund

Designated departmental support for theatrical productions.

FRIENDS OF THEATER 2025-2026

Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Gross

Mr. Thomas P. Leff

Mr. Ned Hitchcock, II

Cleveland Foundation

Cynthia G. Dettelbach, Ph.D.

Emmett J. Gossen, Jr., Ph.D. J.D.

James W. Simmelink, Ph.D

Joyce A. Simmelink

Michael A. St. Clair, Ph.D.

Mr. Akshai Singh

Mr. David Foler

Ms. Amy Memis-Foler

Mr. Donald Charles Carrier

Mr. Frederick McGuire

Mr. Gary A. Nemeth

Mr. Guillermo Olivos

Mr. Mark A. Francioli

Mr. Thomas P. Gates

Mrs. Judy Strauss-Schwartz

Mrs. M. Gail Jones-Nemeth

Mrs. Minna Silverman Buxbaum

Mrs. Robin Dunn Fixell

Mrs. Susan Sering

Ms. Amy Memis-Foler

Ms. Gretchen M. Hurst

Ms. Laurel A. Lockhart

Ms. Maeve McGuire

Ms. Maura A. Emerson

Ms. Susan Hess Lucier

P. Jeffrey Lucier

Peter T. Smith, Ph.D.

Prof. Catherine L. Albers

Prof. Jerrold Scott & Mr. Troy Watson

Rev. Dr. Susan K. Ventura

Sharmon Sollitto

The William R. Hill Charitable Fund

Theodore Herstand, Ph.D.

YOU CAN BECOME A FRIEND OF THEATER INSTANTLY!

Text @cwru give to 52014, followed by #theater and the dollar amount you wish to donate or visit .

Checks, made payable to CWRU, may be sent to Friends of Theater
c/o The College of Arts and Sciences,
10900 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH
44106-7068



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY**
College of Arts and Sciences
Theater