



DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION SERIES *PRESENTS*



LEGALLY BLONDE

THE MUSICAL

Book by **Heather Hach**

Music & Lyrics by **Laurence O'Keefe & Nell Benjamin**

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

Directed by **Catherine Doherty**

Music Directed by **Brittany Proia**

Choreography by **Hailey Cooknick**

April 17, 18, 23*-25 @ 8 p.m.

April 19, 25 & 26 @ 2 p.m.**

McKenna Theatre

*Pre-show talk

**Talkback following performance

Legally Blonde The Musical is presented through special arrangement with **Music Theatre International (MTI)**. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS 2025-2026 MAINSTAGE SEASON

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION



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.

ABOUT *LEGALLY BLONDE*



Elle Woods appears to have it all. Her life is turned upside down when her boyfriend Warner dumps her so he can attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle ingeniously charms her way into the prestigious law school. While there, she struggles with peers, professors and her ex. With the support of some new friends, though, Elle quickly realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world.

RATED PG13



This production contains mature themes, strong language, and a moment of staged harassment.

RUN TIME



2 acts | 2.5 hours | 10-minute intermission

THEATRICAL EFFECTS



This production employs water-based haze effects and flashing lights.

WARNING



Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

CAST



Elle's Dad / Winthrop / Courtney Christopher Agostinelli
Cezar Tepesh / Carlos Joseph Basile-Faicco
Emmett Forrest James Bello
Delta Nu Ensemble Nova Bulin
Understudy for Pilar / Margot / Serena Nova Bulin
Vivienne Kensington Eileen Bronk
Understudy for Enid / Vivienne Betsey Colligan
Offstage alto singer Betsey Colligan
Brooke Wyndam / Gaelin Bridget Donnelly
Professor Callahan Jack Edmonds
Elle Woods Mya Espinosa
Kate / Chutney Wyndam Alina Estep
Margot Emily Ferry
Leilani / Stenographer Em Glass
Nikos / Offstage baritone singer Rocco Grancio
Aaron Schultz / Grandmaster Chad / Judge Seamus Greene
Alternate for Elle Woods Nora-Lise Hamre
Enid Hoopes Grace Hoey
Kyle / Pforzheimer Jayden Jordan
Dewey / Lowell Toby Kalet
Warner Huntington III Lennon Lotardo
Paulette Buonofuonte Charlee McLaughlin
DA Riley / Store Manager Kristen McQuaid
Understudy for Emmett / Callahan / Warner Kai Pelsue
Offstage tenor singer Kai Pelsue
Pilar Tiare Pskowski-Philippo
Serena Mia Rinaldi
Elle's Mom / Whitney Kyra Saffon
Understudy for Paulette / Brooke / Offstage soprano singer Naya Vulaj

DRAMATURG NOTE



Co-Dramaturgs Rome Torres & Oz Fen Wang

“This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.” (*Hamlet* Act 1 Sc. 3)

Elle Woods is a pop culture icon that teaches us more than just “blondes have more fun.”

Legally Blonde: The Musical follows the beloved story of a young woman receiving admission into Harvard Law School and her journey of self realization as she is thrown out of her Barbie-esque inner world. We watch Elle consistently subvert the stereotypes projected onto her by peers, family, and institutions through a boisterous musical score and comedic moments on stage.

Legally Blonde explores themes of determination, community, and staying true to your identity. Despite social challenges and expectations, Elle maintains her personal style and moral integrity. We are taught a valuable lesson about remaining sincere in an environment that stifles authenticity, and all through the creative art of musical theater!

SUNY New Paltz’ production in particular challenges the normative structures projected onto Elle by integrating a camp sensibility into the design and performance. So, what exactly *is* camp? Camp is scarcely defined, but in Susan Sontag’s most prominent work, *Notes on Camp*, she offers some attempts at clarity. In this work she says: “The whole point of Camp is to dethrone the serious. Camp is playful, anti-serious. More precisely, Camp involves a new, more complex relation to the serious. One can be serious about the frivolous, frivolous about the serious.” Simply put, camp is *performance*. It is theatrical, playful, and it sees everything in quotation marks. By placing *Legally Blonde* within a camp model, we are encouraged to question the forces in the show that attempt to suppress Elle’s individuality in favor of being “serious.”

Continue on next page...

DRAMATURG NOTE (CONT'D)



Our production calls attention to the inherent queerness of camp and its role in telling Elle Woods' story. From discrimination based on appearance to a search for community in isolation, Elle's circumstances can resonate in many ways with queer people of today. The song that serves as the catalyst for Elle's conviction in her identity, ironically enough, is the spirited ensemble piece that is "Legally Blonde (Remix)." This number captures the essence of a camp sensibility through its use of lively instrumentation and multiple ensemble cameos to reclaim Elle's self expression. All the while, she embraces a title given to her that was initially laced with shame and a source of her self-doubt in the previous ballad.

Elle Woods ultimately chooses to take control of her own narrative in a loud, flashy, glamorous, and campy way that teaches us all to implement our own signature color into our everyday lives. We could all use a bit of Elle's courage and tenacity, so to quote from our wonderful ensemble, "Go home and be, indubitably, Legally Blonde!"

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR



Catherine Doherty

Catherine Doherty is an award-winning director, actor and associate professor of theatre arts performance at SUNY New Paltz. Her directing credits at New Paltz include “Urinetown,” “Into the Woods,” “Ready Steady Yeti Go,” “Parade,” “Mad Forest” and “To Kill a Mockingbird.”

Representative regional directing credits include “See How They Run,” “You Can’t Take it With You,” “Mary Poppins,” “My Fair Lady,” “The King and I,” “Chicago,” “The Elephant Man” and more. Her selected acting credits include “Good People,” “Margie,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Nurse,” “Lady Bracknell,” and “The Importance of Being Earnest.”

Doherty has worked with St. Michael’s Playhouse, Northern Stage, Shadowland Stages, Potsdam Music Theatre, Opera North, Theatre in the Square (Georgia) and Lincoln Center. She will be directing “Come From Away” at Adirondack Theatre Festival in Glens Falls, NY in summer 2026. Doherty has worked for ABC, CBS and Fox Television. She is a past recipient of the Telly Award and the Ida Lupino Award from the Director’s Guild of America.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Heather Hach

Heather Hach received 2007 Tony and Drama Desk nominations for her work on *Legally Blonde*. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, School of Journalism, and worked at The New York Times' Denver Bureau as a research assistant and Sports and Fitness Publishing in Boulder, Colorado, as a magazine editor. Hach is a member of Denver's Comedy Sports improv comedy troupe. She worked on the TV shows "Caroline in the City" and "Dilbert," and won the Walt Disney Screenwriting Fellowship in 1999. Hach's film credits include Disney's "Freaky Friday" and "What to Expect When You're Expecting." She also wrote the young adult novel "Freaky Monday" with Mary Rodgers. Much love to friends and family, especially Jason, Harper, and Drake.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Laurence O'Keefe

Laurence O'Keefe received 2007 Tony and Drama Desk nominations for his work on “Legally Blonde.” O'Keefe thanks all “Blonde” producers and creative team. He won the Ed Kleban Award, the ASCAP Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award, and a Jonathan Larson award for his music and lyrics. His Off-Broadway credits include “Bat Boy: The Musical (Lucille Lortel, Richard Rodgers, Outer Critics’ Circle awards),” which has received 100+ productions worldwide; and music for “Sarah, Plain and Tall,” with lyrics by Nell Benjamin (touring with TheatreWorksUSA). He is the co-author, with Nell Benjamin, of “Cam Jansen” (Drama Desk nomination) and “The Mice.” O'Keefe is a product of his education with the Harvard Krokodiloes, the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the Harvard Lampoon, and the Actors’ Gang, but especially the incomparable Nell Benjamin.

ABOUT THE LYRICIST



Nell Benjamin

Nell Benjamin co-wrote the score to “Legally Blonde: The Musical” with composer Laurence O’Keefe, which received Tony Award nominations, Drama Desk nominations, and the Olivier and Helpmann Awards for Best Musical.

Benjamin wrote the lyrics to “Mean Girls,” which received multiple Tony Award nominations, including for Best Original Score and Best Musical.

Benjamin’s play, “The Explorers Club,” won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Off-Broadway Play, the Edgerton Foundation New American Plays Award, and an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant.

Benjamin has written books and/or lyrics for “Pirates! (or Gilbert and Sullivan plunder'd),” “Sarah, Plain and Tall,” “Cam Jansen (Drama Desk-nominated),” “I Want My Hat Back,” “How I Became A Pirate,” “The Mice,” “Life of the Party,” and “Because of Winn Dixie.” Her upcoming musicals are “Life of the Party,” “Dave,” and “Huzzah!”

Benjamin’s television writing includes “Unhappily Ever After,” Animal Planet’s “Whoa! Sunday with Mo Rocca,” “Electric Company,” “Best Time Ever with Neil Patrick Harris,” “Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway,” and “Julie's Greenroom.”

Benjamin is the recipient of the Kleban Foundation Award and a Jonathan Larson Grant.

CREATIVE TEAM



Director Catherine Doherty
Assistant Director Christopher Etienne
Scenic Designer Dan Daly
Co-Costume Designers Charlotte Palmer-Lane & Moriah Pilet
Lighting Designer Travis McHale
Sound Designer Dean Mahoney
Musical Director Brittany Proia
Assistant Musical Director Katie Gudzik
Choreographer Hailey Cooknick
Assistant Choreographer Arianna Robinson
Co-Dramaturgs Rome Torres & Oz Fen Wang

PRODUCTION TEAM



Production Stage Manager Kiersten DeLorey

Deck Captains / Assistant Stage Managers Luiza Braga & Ray Buchanan

Production Manager Diane Feller

Technical Director Joel Sherry

Properties Manager Amelia Kovtun

Assistant Properties Manager Giana Rojas

Assistant Production Manager Katarina Knapp

Assistant Technical Director Bridget Donnelly

Lead Carpenter Michael Colantuoni

Lead Scenic Artist Alexandra Strock

Scenic Artists Katelyn Haubrick, Erin Quigley

Assistant Director Christopher Etienne

Assistant Scenic Designer Alyssa Turcotte

Assistant Costume Designers Mia Rinaldi, Athena Holman, Erika Pino, Katelyn Haubrick

Assistant Lighting Designer Max Auerbacher

Assistant Sound Designer / A1 Phoebe Albro

Assistant to Musical Director Katie Gudzik

Vocal Captain Emily Ferry

Assistant to Choreographer Arianna Robinson

Dance Captain Nova Bulin

Production Assistants Meg Hobson, Rey Rodriguez, Via Donato, Lila Bruni

Lift / Intimacy Captain Luiza Braga

Back Stage Crew Donavon Guerin, Liam Gorelin, Paige Teixeira

Theatre Arts Participation in Props

Milly Camara, Michael Colantuoni, Ilaria Davniero, Cassie Eggert, Aditri Khadilkar,
Madelyn Marer, Julia McCabe

Introduction to Theatre Production Class

Princess Aboagye, Alexis Accomando, Arlo Baker, Redd Behan, Mateo Briceno, Nova Bulin,
Pheonix Entrades, Donovan Guerin, Emma Young-Holder, Aditri Khadilkar, Alex Martinez,
Kai Pelsue, Moria Pilet, Rey Rodriguez, Claudia Romero, Sarah Warner, Charlie Weisz-
Hoolihan

Theatre Arts Participation in Front of House

Alex Martinez

Theatre Arts Participation in Scenery

Jehan Beg, Julie Deltuvia, Margaux Gilbert, Liam Gorelin, Katarina Knapp, Riley
McGeough, Jessica Morales, Paige Teixeira, Bella Rose Tirado

Student Assistant Workers in Scenery

Jack Barry, Luiza Braga, Ray Buchanan, Michael Colantuoni, Kiersten DeLorey, Bridget
Donnelly, Raeanna Hoskins, Amelia Kovton, Keelin Naylor, Erin Quigley

Costumes, Hair & Makeup

Costume Director Kaitlyn Kociela Taylor

Hair & Makeup Supervisor Evelina Deryabina

Assistant Hair & Makeup Supervisor Athena Holman

Wardrobe Supervisor Natalie Stockmeyer

Assistant Wardrobe Supervisor Noah Cruz Hernandez

Patternmaker Natalie Stockmeyer

Costume Technician Ainsley Clagett

Wardrobe Crew

Allison Jablonski, Julia McCabe, Jade Kee-Corrado, Sara McAuliffe, Anna Bobish, Eden
Burch

Costume Shop Staff

Magnolia Allen, Ainsley Clagett, Noah Hernandez-Cruz, Athena Holman, Janeva Mazil, Moriah Pilet, Cookie Richards, Mia Rinaldi, Arianna Robinson, Ismene Roque, Dani Rosenfeld, Natalie Stockmeyer, Libby Young

Theatre Arts Participation in Costumes

Redd Behan, Maura Fenlon, Sarah Harmon, Grace Hoey, Leo Jones, Brionna McDonald, Miles Messina, Deanna Smutek, Samantha Spivey, Alexandria Vickers

Lighting & Electrics

Production Electrician Meg Hobson

Assistant Production Electricians Dani Pressman, Jupiter Rizzitiello

Lighting Programmer Bradley Stanton

Light Board Operator Declan Caulfield

Followspot Operators Nicholas Hobson, Keelin Naylor, Jupiter Rizzitiello

Fire Watch Maureen Fenlon, Bree Forte

Sound

Monitor Engineer Derrick Ellison

Head A2/Run Crew Head Paige Mansfield

A2 Miles North, Mariana Motherway, Elana Healy

Load In Crew Michael Grundy, Elana Healy, Nick Nystoriak, Mariana Motherway, Tom Smith, Dani Pressman, Ava Mirabella, Jamie Lazorchak

Electricians

Morgan Adamson, Phoebe Albro, Max Auerbacher, Luiza Braga, Declan Caulfield, Kiersten DeLorey, Bree Forte, Jayden Jordan, Keelin Naylor, William O'Neill, Haven Partington, Gina Ruiz, Bradley Stanton, Natalie Terwilliger, Ray Buchanan, Liam Gorelin

Box Office/Front of House Team

Milly Camara, Sofia Levine, Anna Troetel, Tessa Chiaino, Gianna Baez, Kyra Perles, Kaitlyn Pena, Colin Holst, Julia Kotliar, Kaidey Constanza, Alex Martinez, Alli Bryne

Social Media

Grace Hoey

ORCHESTRA



Conductor / Key 1 Nathan Perry

Key 2 Chloe Ramsey Lavoie

Key 3 Connor LeGrady

Guitar Paul Miller

Drums Chris Wengert

Bass Seán Tarleton

Bass (2nd Performance Weekend only) Barry Wiesenfeld

Trombone Stephen Whimple

Trumpet John Barath

Trumpet 2 Myra Lutomski

Trumpet 2 (2nd Performance Weekend only) Arnie Braunstein

Reed 1 Jenny Hill

Reed 2 Louis Bonifati

Violin Guy Thillet

VOICE-OVERS



Voice of the Prison Guard Jeni Mokren

Voice of the TV Reporter Ryan Quinn

Voice of Bruiser Woods & Rufus Buonofuonte Kiersten DeLorey

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



McKenna Theatre is situated on the ancestral land of the Esopus, Lenape, and Munsee people.



In memory of Theatre Arts emeritus faculty member Frank Kraat (1939 – 2025).

Professor Frank Kraat dedicated over 30 years of his career to the Department of Theatre Arts at SUNY New Paltz. He contributed to its foundational curriculum, and his leadership fostered the department's growth into a thriving center of performance, scholarship, and engagement. We are grateful for Frank's devotion to teaching and directing, and the enduring legacy he built.

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS



Associate Professor, Chair	Patricia A. Fitzpatrick
Production Manager	Diane Feller
Technical Director	Joel Sherry
Assistant Professor, Scenic & Props	Dan Daly
Supervisor, Head of Design	
Costume Director	Kaitlyn Kociela Taylor
Lecturer, Lighting Supervisor	Travis McHale
Lecturer, Sound Supervisor	Dean Mahoney
Lecturer, Dramaturgy Supervisor	Caitlyn Halvorsen-Kratky
Faculty	Matthieu Chapman
	Catherine Doherty
	Brittany Proia
	Charlotte Parlmer-Lane
	Ryan Quinn
	Tony Speciale
	Andrea Varga

SCHOOL OF FINE & PERFORMING ARTS



Dean	Jeni Mokren
Associate Dean	Thomas Albrecht
Assistant to Dean	David Cavallaro
Director of Budget & Events	Maria Bedo-Calhoun
Box Office Manager	Russell Thompson
Administrative Assistant 2	Joy Jenners
Marketing & Communication Coordinator	Lindsay Lennon

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