

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION SERIES *PRESENTS*



THE INSEPARABLES

BY TJ YOUNG

DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER ETIENNE'26 (THEATRE ARTS)

FEBRUARY 27 & 28 / MARCH 5, 6 & 7**, 2026 @ 8 P.M.

MARCH 1* & 8, 2026 @ 2 P.M.

PARKER THEATRE

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

*TALKBACK FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE ON MARCH 1

** PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION ON MARCH 7

The Inseparables is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners.

RUN TIME

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2 hours with one 10-minute intermission

STROBE LIGHT WARNING

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This performance contains use of strobe lights.

CONTENT WARNING

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This performance contains lots of puppets.

NO PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

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

ABOUT *THE INSEPARABLES*

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The North American Unified Theatre Collaborators of the West really want to put on a show. Like, really bad. Under the leadership of their founder and director, this group of actors has decided to stage a new adaptation of *The Three Musketeers*. Only, they aren't nearly as prepared as they should be. With puppets and pool noodles, this theatre group prepares for their glorious comeback...that may not happen.

This production is made possible by Student Explorations in Theatre (S.E.T.).

DRAMATURG NOTE

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A note from our dramaturg,
Aditri Khadilkar '26 & Peter Cruz '27

“We don’t let things like the lack of props or costumes or incomplete casts stop us from performing!” -Alex, Act I

It’s a unique experience for many who don’t work in theater to sit in on a rehearsal for a show. It’s usually a private space, where the actors stumble through a run and the vision is only beginning to show itself on stage. This is the side of theater the average audience member doesn't get to see, unless they are involved in the theater themselves. It’s hard to imagine an amazing show starting off with tech mishaps and actors calling for their line.

The Inseparables by TJ Young follows the North American Unified Theatre Collaborators of the West (or NAUTCOTW) in rehearsal for their production of *The Three Musketeers*. The play within the play, an adaptation of Alexandra Dumas’s *The Three Musketeers* written by NAUTCOTW’s director, is itself about the loyalty between D’Artagnan and his friends and how they unite against the abuse of power within the monarchy. There’s only twelve days until opening night and we see that this company may not fully be ready. With the costume designer and actors dropping out, props not coming in on time, and no ensemble to fill out larger scenes, we wonder if they’ll be able to pull off this comeback.

NAUTCOTW is a humorous but telling glimpse into the effects of the second Trump administration cutting funding for nonprofit art organizations. In the past year, many arts groups had their grants from the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) withdrawn or terminated, all the while being under threat of “small agency eliminations” proposed by Trump’s 2026 Discretionary Budget Request. As most people engage with theater through Broadway, many don’t know about the workings of nonprofit regional theater and how they’re in danger or already in the process of getting defunded and dissolved. For those who can’t travel to New York City, regional theaters are the place where they can engage with the performing arts.

DRAMATURG NOTE (CONT'D)

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This is not the first time the NEA has been under threat. In the 90s, the NEA budget was slashed and almost eliminated entirely. The response had been to organize, and eventually it was saved through the advocacy work of art and theater lovers. Today, arts organizations are doing the same thing, encouraging people to advocate for the organization, telling constituents to call their representatives, and even taking the new limitations set by the NEA to the court like National Queer Theater, Rhode Island Latino Arts, The Theater Offensive, and the Theatre Communications Group partnering with the ACLU to hail the limits in grants unconstitutional.

Going into 2026, the NEA has cancelled their grants funding projects that thoughtfully criticize America and instead has prioritized celebrating America for its 250th anniversary. With the narrative and themes the current administration is trying to push, continuing to make independent art is an act of resistance. Whether it's outright political or not, the art we make comes from our own voices and experiences.

As theatre artists, we create together because we believe in the potential of it. The stories we tell resonate with us. We laugh, cry, and get antsy in anticipation of opening night. As audience members, we get to be witnesses for the creation of art and support everyone involved. We are just as much a part of the process as the actors in front of us, the run crew backstage, and the technical operators in the booths. Theater is something we all participate in together. By continuing to show up for each other and the arts themselves, just like the North American Unified Theatre Collaborators of the West, we can remind ourselves that we are truly inseparable.

DIRECTOR NOTE



A note from our Director, **CHRISTOPHER ETIENNE '26 (THEATRE ARTS)**

“Show this corner of the world what your friends could do together.
We’re here. We are your friends. We have our epic story.” - Jordan Act 2

A perfect quote to sum up this unique experience in directing *The Inseparables*. For me the joy of being in a room filled with other people who love to do theatre as much as I do is simply a dream blunt rotation if you ask me. *The Inseparables* is about the North American Unified Theatre Collaborators of the West trying their best to put on a quite unique rendition of *The Three Musketeers*. What I enjoyed taking away from TJ Young’s brilliant writing is that even when the show’s props, costumes, and set isn’t close to being ready, let alone the building is slowly falling apart; there is still an ensemble of artists still willing to create art not because they have to, but because they want to.

This project marks my first time solo directing a production on such a larger scale at SUNY New Paltz, and it's been nothing but hysterical, wild, and deeply one of a kind rewarding experience. Being a part of *Student Exploration in Theatre* (S.E.T) shined a new light on this department showcasing the incredible work and dedication of student’s skills and admiration especially in a time where it tends to get overlooked.

I could have never imagined that during my final semester, I would be spending countless hours learning the true art of puppetry, fighting with pool noodles, and riding techniques for hobby horsing for a loose adaptation of *The Three Musketeers* that's being performed on a thrust stage located below a college Starbucks.

Theater has a very funny way of surprising you!

A huge thank you to the entire cast and crew for the months filled with laughter, creative minds, and collaboration. The energy that was radiating made this entire process unforgettable and I’m so grateful to have shared it with all of you.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT



TJ Young is a Texas-born playwright and dramaturg based in Pittsburgh where he serves as co-representative for the Dramatists Guild - Pittsburgh region. His plays include **NO. 6** (2017 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Award Winner – KCACTF, Indiana Repertory Theatre), **LYON'S DEN** (2018 Harold and Mimi Steinberg Distinguished Play Winner), **DARK SKINNED PAVEMENT** (2020 Inkslinger Playwriting Award Winner), **RUBY'S BABY BLUE** (2016 John Cable Short Play Regional Selection- KCACTF), **HELL IS EMPTY** (2017 John Cable Short Play Regional Selection - KCACTF), **HALLMARK** (TETA Playfest 10-minute Winner), **THE INSEPARABLES**, and **SPERM DONOR WANTED**. His 10-minute plays are: **BEFORE THE FIRE** (Fade to Black 2018 Festival Selection), **EFFIE**, **ROCK THE CRADLE**, **LILIES**, and **STUFFED**. He was the recipient of the 2017 Ken Ludwig Playwriting Scholarship. He has had productions at Texas State University as part of their New Works Festival, Director/Designer Collaboration Project, and as part of their 2016-2017 Main Stage Season. He was the 2019 Spotlight Artist of Throughline Theatre Company in Pittsburgh, PA. He received his MFA in Dramatic Writing from Texas State University. He has been a Teaching Artist with City Theatre in Pittsburgh and worked with Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh. He is also the NPP Vice-Chair for Region 2 of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

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Christopher Etienne is a Brooklyn born and raised theatre artist and a current senior at SUNY New Paltz, where he is majoring in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Theatre Studies and minoring in Film and Video Studies. Christopher is thrilled to be making his solo directing debut here with New Paltz School of Fine and Performing Arts.

Throughout his time at New Paltz, Christopher has worn many hats. He previously served as an Assistant Director for *Urinetown The Musical* (2024), *Trouble in Mind* (2024), and, later this spring, *Legally Blonde* (2026); as well as a dramaturg for both *Shrek the Musical* (2025) and *Artaud Artaud* (2025). Also, the production stage manager on *Hooded, or Being Black for Dummies* (2023), further expands his palette with his deep love for the art of creating theater.

When he's not in rehearsal or burying his nose in a script, Christopher enjoys writing, trying to work on doing a split, making countless references to *Desperate Housewives* and *The Devil Wears Prada*, training for his (future) Olympic breakdancing debut, and maintaining his entirely one-sided beef with Martha Stewart.

Christopher is excited to graduate and continue creating meaningful art out in the big, crazy world. He would like to send a huge thank you to the legendary Bret McKenzie for writing what he believes is the greatest self-confidence queer anthem of all time "*Man or Muppet*."

CAST

(in alphabetical order)

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LILA BRUNI		Taylor
SYDNEY BUTTON		Kai
ALLI BYRNE		Dakota
KAYA FITZPATRICK		Brooklyn
MEG HOBSON		Ezra
PAIGE MANSFIELD		Jordan
DECLAN MCCONNELL		Alex
KEELIN N.		Reese
LENI NEGRIN		Emerson

RISS DEJESUS | Swing for Alex/Brooklyn/Taylor

CHARLIE DOWNEY | Swing for Reese/Dakota/Jordan

EAMON KEUPER | Swing for Ezra/Kai/Emerson

CREATIVE TEAM



Director | Christopher Etienne

Costume Designer | Natalie Stockmeyer

Assistant Costume Designers | Ainsley Clagett, Kaitlyn Haulberick

Hair and Makeup Supervisor | Cookie Richards

Lighting Designer | Bradley Stanton

Sound Designer | Miles North

Scenic Designer | Gianna Rojas

Technical Director | Luiza Braga

Assistant Technical Director | Alyssa Turcotte

Properties Manager | Erin Quigley

Production Stage Manager | Liam Gorelin

Assistant Stage Managers | Paige Teixeira, Rome Torres

Production Assistants | Anna Bobish, George Folise

Dramaturg | Aditri Khadilkar

Assistant Dramaturg | Peter Cruz

Fight Choreographer | Catherine Doherty

Production Manager | Kiersten DeLorey

CREW AND STAFF



Wardrobe Supervisor | Brionna McDonald

Wardrobe Crew | Mateo Briceno, Holly Visconti

Costume Shop Staff | Magnolia Allen, Ainsley Clagett,

Noah Hernandez-Cruz, Moriah Pilet,

Athena Holman, Janeva Mazil,

Cookie Richards, Mia Rinaldi,

Arianna Robinson, Ismene Roque,

Dani Rosenfeld, Natalie Stockmeyer,

Libby Young

Costume Construction TAP | Redd Behan, Maura Fenlon,

Sarah Harmon, Grace Hoey,

Leo Jones, Brionna McDonald,

Miles Messine, Deanna Smutek,

Samantha Spivey, Alexandria Vickers

Scenic Artist | Alex Strock

Production Crew | Micheal Colantuoni, Kiersten DeLorey,

Raeanna Hoskinson, Amelia Kovtun,

Erin Quigley

Scenic Elements Designed by | Kiersten DeLorey

Sound Board Operator | Mariana Motherway

Lighting Consultant | Max Auerbacher

Lighting Programmer | Oz Fen Wang

Light Board Operator | Dani Pressman

CREW AND STAFF (CONT'D)

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Electricians | Phoebe Albro, Luiza Braga,
Declan Caulfield, Kiersten DeLorey,
Meg Hobson, Keelin N.,
Jupiter Rizzitiello

Social Media Coordinator | Grace Hoey

Social Media Editors | James Bello, Alli Byrne, Mya Espinosa,
Alina Estep, Em Glass

Box Office Manager | Russell Thompson

House Manager | Milly Camara

Box Office Assistant | Kyra Perles

Box Office Assistant | Tessa Chiaino

Box Office Assistant | Sofia Levine

Box Office Assistant | Kaitlin Peña

Box Office Assistant | Gianna Baez

Box Office Assistant | Anna Troetel

Box Office Assistant | Colin Holst

Box Office Assistant | Kaidey Constanza

Box Office Assistant | Anna Troetel

Box Office Assistant | Julia Kotliar

Theatre Arts Participation: Front of House | Alex Martinez



S.E.T. stands for Student Explorations in Theatre. It is a fully student-led program that provides students leadership opportunities and a chance to apply their education in a hands-on, and independent setting. Through S.E.T., students take creative and technical control to be able to bring their visions to the stage.

S.E.T. COMMITTEE



- Production Manager** | Kiersten DeLorey
- Treasurer** | Arianna Robinson
- Tech and Design Consultant/Representative** | Phoebe Albro
- Performance Representative** | Lennon Lotardo
- Theatre Studies Representative** | Rome Torres
- TADA President** | Luiza Braga
- NPP President** | Alina Estep

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Technical Director | Joel Sherry

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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

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Catherine Doherty,

Brittany Proia,

Ryan Quinn,

Tony Speciale,

Andrea Varga

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DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

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