

# the Spitfire

# GRILL

Music and Book by

## James Valcq

Lyrics and Book by

## Fred Alley

Based on the film by

## Lee David Zlotoff

**MILLER THEATER**  
Climenhaga Building

February 29,  
March 1-2, 5-7  
8 PM


March 2-3  
3 PM

Directed by  
Ed Cohn

Music Direction by  
Eric Dundore

\*MARCH 5 AT 10 AM school series  
performance (recommended for  
junior high and high school students)

**2023-2024**  
**SEASON**

@MUTheatreandDance 

Messiah\_Univ\_Theatre\_and\_Dance 

 **MESSIAH**  
**UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF  
THEATRE AND DANCE



*the*  
**Spitfire**  
**GRILL**

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Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the New York Premiere of "The Spitfire Grill" Off-Broadway in 2001.

"The Spitfire Grill" received its World Premiere production by the George Street Playhouse, November 5, 2000, David Saint, Artistic Director, Michael Stotts, Managing Director.

THE SPITFIRE GRILL is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.  
[www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

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DEPARTMENT OF  
THEATRE AND DANCE

**Mission Statement:** As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

[messiah.edu/departments/theatre](http://messiah.edu/departments/theatre)

## CONNECT WITH US!

If you liked what you saw tonight, please spread the word on social media!



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## **ARTISTIC TEAM**

Director.....	Ed Cohn
Music Director.....	Eric Dundore
Conductor.....	Eric Dundore
Stage Manager.....	Ella Shane
Scenic Designer.....	Tymerley Whitesel
Costume Designer.....	Elizabeth Angelozzi
Assistant Costume Designers.....	Lydia Matson, Clara Bellot
Lighting Designer.....	Tristan Stasiulis
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Makayla Peltz
Sound Designer.....	Sunny Almeyda
Properties Masters.....	Eleanor Mund, Sierra Emery, Julie Osburn
Hair and Make-up Designer.....	Ella Murray
Charge Artist.....	Alysse Whaley
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager.....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinators.....	Hannah Wilburn, Meredith Hensel

## **CAST**

Percy Talbott.....	Abby Crispin
Percy Talbott Understudy.....	Sierra Emery
Hannah Ferguson.....	Sammi Shuma
Hannah Ferguson Understudy.....	Julia Itson
Shelby Thorpe.....	Alysse Whaley
Shelby Thorpe Understudy.....	Ella Murray
Caleb Thorpe.....	Michael Casey
Sheriff Joe Sutter.....	Alden Walker
Effy Krayneck.....	Clara Bellot
Effy Krayneck Understudy.....	Eleanor Mund
The Visitor.....	Alexsador Böhm

## **PIT ORCHESTRA**

Keyboards.....	Julia Hoffman
Guitar.....	Peyton Rohrbaugh
Violin.....	Abi Zimmerman
Cello.....	Ellen Miner
Accordion.....	Sophia DiPimeo

## **RUNNING CREW**

Assistant Stage Manager..... Yanira Perez  
Wardrobe ..... Julia Itson  
Sound Board Ops ..... Carmi Wilmot, Adahlee Schroeder  
Light Board Op..... Gianna Warner  
House Manager ..... Rebecca Methven

## **SET & COSTUME CONSTRUCTION**

Set and costume construction was completed with the help of the Messiah Theatre and Dance Department Work Study Students.

## **MUSICAL NUMBERS**

### **Act I:**

“A Ring Around the Moon” – Percy  
“Something’s Cooking at the Spitfire Grill” – Company  
“Out of the Frying Pan” – Percy  
“When Hope Goes” – Shelby  
“Ice and Snow” – Caleb, Joe and Effy  
“The Colors of Paradise” – Percy and Shelby  
“Digging Stone” – Caleb  
“This Wide Woods” – Joe and Percy  
“Forgotten Lullaby” – Hannah  
“Shoot the Moon” – Hannah and Company

### **Act II:**

“Come Alive Again” – Hannah and Company  
“Forest For the Trees” – Joe  
“Wild Bird” – Shelby  
“Shine” – Percy  
“Way Back Home” – Hannah  
“Finale” – Company

**There will be one 10-minute intermission between Act I and Act II.**

## CAST BIOS .....

**Clara Bellot** (Effy Krayneck) is a sophomore musical theatre major and is ecstatic to be a part of this heartwarming story. Previous credits include *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie Oakley), *Crimes of the Heart* (Chick U/S), and *Into the Woods* (Florinda). She extends the whole of her thanks to the Lord, her mom, sister, friends, cast and crew that made this show possible. She hopes that you enjoy your visit to Gilead and the show!

**Alexsander Böhm** (The Visitor) is thrilled to return to the stage for his second Messiah show! Alex is a dual early elementary and special education major. Previously, he enjoyed playing Cinderella's Prince and the Wolf in last year's production of *Into the Woods*. He is so thankful for the wonderful cast and crew and hopes you enjoy the show!

**Michael Casey** (Caleb Thorpe) is a junior English middle education major. He enjoys music and hanging out with his friends and family. He has performed a few roles in his high school productions and for Messiah University, his favorites were Fire Chief Beatty in *Fahrenheit 451* in high school, and Senator Higgins in *Alabama Story* in college. Michael is thrilled to bring his love for storytelling to the stage in this upcoming production of *The Spitfire Grill*!

**Abby Crispin** (Percy Talbott) is a sophomore musical theatre major and excited to be a part of this musical! Previous Messiah credits include *Shoeless Joe*, *Steel Magnolias* (Truvy Jones), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel), and *Alabama Story* (Lily). She's thankful for this opportunity to work with Ed and this talented cast and crew. She wants to thank her parents for always supporting her and God for helping her to share the gifts He's given her.

**Sierra Emery** (Percy Talbott Understudy) is a Messiah University junior majoring in musical theatre. She is ecstatic to be performing in Messiah's spring production. This show has been an amazing journey as she has grown so much as a singer and an actress. She would like to praise God for this opportunity, her softball team, her family, Professor Ed, and her cast and crew for their unconditional love and support.

**Julia Itson** (Hannah Ferguson Understudy) is a sophomore musical theatre major. Her previous roles include Helene's Mother (*Who Will Carry the Word?*) and Lenny understudy (*Crimes of the Heart*). When not on the stage she enjoys making music and spending time with her friends and family. Julia is so excited to be a part of this production with her lovely castmates and crew.

**Eleanor Mund** (Effy Krayneck Understudy) is a sophomore musical theatre major. Previous roles at Messiah include Denise in *Who Will Carry the Word?*, Meg in *Crimes of the Heart*, and Annie in *Silent Sky*. Eleanor is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful cast, crew, and creative team. She hopes you get lost in the folksy music and heartfelt stories of *The Spitfire Grill* - and, of course, Effy's hot gossip! Enjoy the show!

**Ella Murray** (Shelby Thorpe Understudy) is excited to be back on stage at Messiah after previously playing Lily in *Alabama Story*, Babe in *Crimes of the Heart*, being a part of *Shoeless Joe* this fall, and last, Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, and Snow White in *Into the Woods*. Love and thanks to my parents, family, and friends for their encouragement and support.

**Sammi Shuma** (Hannah Ferguson) is a senior film and musical theatre major who is thrilled to be sharing this story as Hannah Ferguson. Previous roles include Wednesday Addams, (*The Addams Family*), Milky White/Witch U/S (*Into the Woods*) and Emily Reed (*Alabama Story*). Sammi feels truly blessed to have continuously worked with such talented cast and crew leading up to graduation. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their support.

**Alden Walker** (Sheriff Joe Sutter) is a junior commercial music major and is excited to be playing Joe Sutter in his sixth Messiah mainstage production! Previous theatre credits include *Into the Woods* (The Baker) and *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Snail). Many thanks to Ed and the cast and crew for the dedication and work they've put into this amazing show. Also, a big thank you to his friends and family for their continual love and support!

**Alysse Whaley** (Shelby Thorpe) is thrilled to be a part of *The Spitfire Grill*. She is a musical theatre major, whose select credits include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Françoise, (*Who Will Carry the Word?*), and Lady (*Ladies and Gentlemen, The Rain*). Alysse is very grateful for this amazing opportunity to perform with this wonderful cast and crew.



**WHO WILL CARRY THE WORD?** Written by Charlotte Delbo, Directed by Ed Cohn and Carmi Wilmot

"Who Will Carry the Word?" is a deeply moving recount of French writer Charlotte Delbo's survival during the Holocaust. The play depicts the atrocities during this unfathomable time in history, painting an emotionally raw picture of enduring the unimaginable. While "Who Will Carry the Word?" is based on existence in concentration camps, it also portrays how in times of despair, mankind comes together—bonded by strength and courage—to find hope and the will to escape a dire fate.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 5 – 7 at 8 pm; Oct. 8 at 3 pm**

**SHOELESS JOE** Directed by Susan Hurley

Fall musical theatre cabaret.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 28 at 8 pm; Oct. 29 at 3 pm**

**ALABAMA STORY** Written by Kenneth Jones, Directed by Daniel Inouye

As the Civil Rights movement is brewing, a controversial children's book about a black rabbit marrying a white rabbit stirs the passions of a segregationist State Senator and a no-nonsense State Librarian in 1959 Montgomery, Alabama. Meanwhile, the story of two childhood friends – an African American man and a woman of white privilege, reunited in adulthood – provides a private counterpoint to the public events swirling in the state capital. Political foes, star-crossed lovers, and one feisty children's author inhabit the same page in a Deep South of the imagination that brims with humor, heartbreak and hope. Inspired by true events.

**Miller Theater Nov. 9-11, 17-18 at 8 pm; Nov. 12 & 19 at 3 pm; \*Nov. 16 at 10 am special school performance**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with this lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance with this intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 16 at 7pm**

**FALL SENIOR SERIES**

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 1 at 8 pm, Dec. 3 at 3 pm; Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 8-9 at 8 pm, Dec. 10 at 3 pm**

**2024 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 23 at 4 pm; Feb. 24 at 8 pm**

**THE SPITFIRE GRILL** Music and book by James Valcq, Lyrics and book by Fred Alley, Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff, Directed by Ed Cohn. Based on the hit film, "The Spitfire Grill" is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance, and family. A torn page from an old travel book sparks parolee Percy Talbot to journey to a small town in Wisconsin. There she finds a new life working at the Spitfire Grill. The folks in this depressed town have more to worry about than Percy's past, but fear and hesitancy turn to friendship when Percy schemes to revive the old grill by raffling it off. The entry fee is one hundred dollars, and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full, and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

**Miller Theater Feb. 29, March 1-2, 5-7 at 8 pm; March 2-3 at 3 pm; \*March 5 at 10 am special school performance**

**SPRING SENIOR SERIES**

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

**Poorman Black Box Theater March 22 - 23 at 8 pm; Miller Theater April 18-19 at 8 pm**

**CULMINATION '24: SPRING DANCE CONCERT** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is an artistic endeavor. Celebrate spring and the dance accomplishments of Messiah University's theatre and dance department in an offering of favorite dance pieces from the year, new faculty work, student adjudicated creations, and senior capstone projects all in one fun and glorious dance concert!

**Miller Theater April 12 at 8 pm; April 13 at 2 pm**

**ONE-ACT FESTIVAL & SHOELESS JOE COMBINED**

A festival of student-directed and fully produced one act plays! Join us for several evenings of fresh, inventive, and innovative story telling.

**Poorman Black Box Theater April 26 – 27 at 8 pm & April 27- 28 at 3 pm**