

# Muhlenberg Theatre Association Board

## Spring 2022

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# MEDEA

BY EURIPEDES

DIRECTED BY BRAYDEN STALLMAN '23



**CONTENT:** *Murder, grief, blood, infanticide, mention of sex*

## Director's Note

“Before Lamia killed children, her children were killed. The root of her violence, like the root of so much violence, is grief.”

Jess Zimmerman, *Women and Other Monsters: Building a New Mythology*

On the mornings your mouth is filled with the bitter taste from hollow tragedies of last night, where your memory is haunted by the brokenness of everything you once thought would be forever there, I hope you remember how once, you were new enough to the world that everything seemed like a joyous adventure. I hope one day you heal enough from all this pain and go back to who you used to be. Just a human looking out at the world, astonished by its beauty.

- Nikita Gill, **Notes on Survival #4**

“there is no ascent to the heights without prior descent into darkness, no new life without some form of death.”

Karen Armstrong, *A Short History of Myth*

## Cast & Crew

Medea..... Jordan Lavalle  
Nurse..... Bella Castillo  
Jason..... Brandon Horyczun  
Kreon..... Nicholas Pierron  
Attendant..... Henry Floquet  
Aegeus..... Vanessa Graniero  
Chorus..... Olivia Thiemann  
Jolie Lanning  
Natalie McElhinny  
Hannah Kulbitsky

Director..... Brayden Stallman  
Production Stage Manager..... Johnny Veglia  
Assistant Stage Manager..... Robin Title  
Costume Designer..... Katie Harris  
Lighting Designer..... Sam Powers  
Scenic Designer..... Caitie Pagonis  
Sound Designer..... Susa List

**For more  
information about  
this show and full  
bios, scan this QR  
code:**

## Featuring

Brayden Stallman (he/him) (Director) is a Theatre and Media-Communications major at Muhlenberg. Previously at Muhlenberg, Stallman assistant directed Call Me By Any Other Name, participated in the Sedehi Diversity Project, and appeared as Lomov in A Marriage Proposal. Stallman has worked with Starlight's Youth Theater, Black Cat Theater, and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts and is Secretary of Noteworthy A Cappella, producer and host of podcast: "Return to Camp Half-Blood", and holds an internship at FringeArts in Philadelphia.

Robin Title (they/them) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Theatre at Muhlenberg. Previously at Muhlenberg, Title appeared in The Vagina Monologues and is a part of the comedy group Damsels in Excess. Coming up they are currently in rehearsals for Kindred Spirits (Red Door Play Festival). Other favorite credits of theirs include Hannah: Newsies(Westport Country Playhouse) Frances Perkins/Adult Ensemble: Annie(Westport Country Playhouse) and Yvonne: Sunday in the Park with George (Fairfield Warde High School).

Sam Powers (he/him) (Lighting Designer) is a theatre and business double major, with a focus in stage management and technical theatre and design. Previous credits: Stage Manager: Call Me By Any Other Name...Just As Sweet; Unstable Connections (Mnemonic Festival); Lessons of an Unaccustomed Bride (NV/NV 2019), and Cagebirds (Red Door Play Festival); Assistant Stage Manager: The Telephone (Love & the Law) and Dance Gallery productions, and Designer for Studio Productions of Portrait of Madonna and My California. Visit [www.sampowersstage.com](http://www.sampowersstage.com) to see more of his work.

## Featuring

Caitie Pagonis (they/them) (Scenic Designer) is a sophomore Theatre major concentrating in acting. This is Caitie's first time on the production team of a play!! Acting credits include The Saint Plays (mainstage) and Love And Information (FPPF) here at Muhlenberg. Caitie is also a new member of Inacchord A Cappella on campus, and will be appearing in the Red Door Play A Strange Summoning this month!

Susa List (she/her) (Sound Designer) is a Media-Communications and Political Science double major with a minor in German Studies. Previous credits include: Stage Manager: A Marriage Proposal (Studio Production); An Experiment (Fish Project Play Festival); and Far Away (Fish Project Play Festival); Sound Designer: An Experiment; Far Away; and Scared Silly (Studio Production) Outside of Muhlenberg theatre Susa is also a campus delegate, tutor, and member of Berg Production.

Katie Harris (Costume Designer) is a Theater major with a Music minor. Previous costume design credits include: The Philadelphia (Studio Production) and Medea (Studio Production), and assistant design Call Me By Any Other Name...Just as Sweet (Fall Department Production ). She just finished up performing in You Are Cordially Invited (Assembly).

Johnny Veglia (he/him) (Stage Manager) is a Theatre and Media Communication double major with a Business Administration minor. At Muhlenberg, Veglia has previously worked on On The Act of (Possibly) Getting Engaged (Stage Manager), Scared Silly (Scenic Designer), Comment Is Free (Dramaturg), and The White Plague (Dramaturg). In addition, Veglia is the New Play Reading Series Coordinator, Co-Editor for the Arts and Culture section of The Muhlenberg Weekly, a tour guide, Cardinal Key Society Class of 2024 Representative, and Academic Resource Center tutor/workshop tutor.

## Featuring

Jordan Lavallo (she/her) (Medea) is a performer from Bergen County, New Jersey. She is a freshman who intends to double major in Theatre and Political Science with a minor in Dance. Previously at Muhlenberg, Lavallo has danced in Retrospectives and Unconquered. Outside of productions, she is a member of the Dana Scholars Program, Cardinal Key Society, Perkulators Jazz Team, Mint Hop-Hop Team, and a Lifetime Girl Scout. Lavallo is incredibly grateful for this wonderful cast and crew and is thrilled for her Muhlenberg theatrical debut as Medea! Enjoy!

Bella Castillo (she/her) (Nurse) is a freshman at Muhlenberg, with an intended double major in Theatre and Media-Communications. Outside of performing, Bella is the assistant media coordinator for the Muhlenberg Theatre Association. This is Bella's first production at Muhlenberg and she is so grateful to have worked with such an incredible cast and crew! She hopes you enjoy the show!

Brandon Horyczun (he/him) (Jason) is in his junior year at Muhlenberg, and is a Theatre major with a double minor in philosophy and creative writing. On campus he is part of the Muhlenberg Acafellas a cappella group. His previous shows at Muhlenberg include Locker Next to Mine (Brady), Radium Girls (Arthur Roeder) and The Saint Plays (Policeman/Landowner/Joseph). He hopes everyone enjoys the show!

Nick Pierron (he/him) (Kreon) is a sophomore at Muhlenberg, and is a Theatre major with a minor in Creative Writing. On campus he is a part of Muhlenberg's stand-up comedy group SIT and the long-form improv group UiP. His previous shows at Muhlenberg include Scared Silly (Burt/Kevin/Taylor's Dad), Replacing Linda (Jackson), and The White Plague (Son). Nick is thankful to be a part of a group of such talented and creative people!

## Featuring

Henry Floquet (he/him) (Attendant) is in his Freshman year at Muhlenberg, with plans to major in Theater. He has worked in roles both on and offstage for shows like The Drowsy Chaperone and The Odyssey Project. This will be his first production at the school, and he is extremely grateful to start off what will hopefully be a pretty super journey through college with such an amazing cast and creative team.

Vanessa Graniero (she/they) (Aegeus/Chorus) is a Theater Major at Muhlenberg with Minors in Spanish and Creative Writing. On campus, she is involved in Phi Mu, Residential Advising, and the Dana Scholars program. When it comes to productions, she was a part of Macbeth on campus last spring. She has also played Caliban in The Tempest, which is their favorite role yet! They are thrilled for everyone to see Medea, and they hope everyone enjoys the show!

Olivia Thiemann (she/her) (Chorus) is a sophomore double majoring in Theater and Psychology at Muhlenberg. She is involved in Berg A Cappella as a member of Coda, as well as her role as a Residential Advisor. Her Muhlenberg theater experiences consist of her role as Alex in Headaches by Jessi Stier during the 2021 Fish Project Play Festival, her role as Jo in Wake by Ally Duvak in the fall of 2022 Red Door Play Festival, and her readings for the 2022 New Play Reading Series. She is absolutely thrilled to be making her debut studios performance in Medea!

Natalie McElhinny (she/her) (Chorus) is a first year Theatre and Psychology Double Major at Muhlenberg! She is involved with the MCA and MTA as a member of the long-form improv group, UIP, and has performed in Studios Fall 2021 Scared Silly, New Play Reading Series Spring 2022 Untitled, and will perform in the Red Doors Spring 2022 Cut. Natalie is incredibly thankful to be able to share this story with such an amazing group of people!

## Featuring

Jolie Lanning (she/they) (Chorus) is a freshman Theatre Major here at Muhlenberg! On campus, she is currently the Fundraising Manager for the MTA and Social Media Manager for the MCA, along with being in the improv/sketch comedy groups MIA and Damsels in Excess. Outside of Muhlenberg, she was an intern at Touchstone Theater, and continues to be a long-time partner with the ensemble. Her favorite past role is Puck in A Midsummer Night's Dream. Enjoy the show!

Hannah Kulbitsky (she/her) (Chorus) class of 2024, majors in theater and sustainability studies. Her most recent theatrical performances included Helena in Midsummer Night's Dream in Schuylkill Free Shakespeare as well as "Fix" in the devised piece Run, Glue, Tree, Pour, Dive in Muhlenberg's 2021 mnemonic Festival. When she's not on stage, Hannah is involved on campus in Damsels in Excess, Trexler Library, Media Services, EnACT, and Knitting Club.

**We would like to recognize that the cast and creative team of this production is predominately white. The MTA continues to actively work to expand our application pool and programming in order to better represent the Muhlenberg community.**

## A Message from the Studios Coordinator

When I was asked to be Studios Coordinator for this season, I had no idea what I was in for. As a sophomore coming out of the thick of the pandemic on campus, I was just beginning to learn how live theatre operated, let alone how to operate it myself. In these last four months, however, I not only discovered what live theatre at Muhlenberg was, but I also rediscovered what theatre really meant to me. I learned as I went along, and the more that I learned, the more I remembered why I loved Theatre in the first place. The dedication I have seen from everyone with a hand on deck has been no less than inspiring, and I am so grateful to have worked with such amazing and talented people in order to make Studios happen this semester. I would be remiss not to thank my Studios team for holding my hand and cheering for our small victories. Allison, Gabi, Hannah, and of course our MTA President Elizabeth, I could not have done any of this without you. I also want to thank my assistant Kyle for tying my loose ends, our Studios Advisors Beth Schachter and Nigel Semaj for providing invaluable mentorship for our directors, Jim Peck for supporting me in my new position, and Jess Bien for being there for me every step of the way. Directors, stage managers, designers, and actors, thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to your projects. I am so proud of every single one of us involved in this process, and I can only hope our audiences can be proud of us too.

Sincerely, your Studios Coordinator,  
Rachelle