

*Mercer Island High School Drama
Presents*

Written by **Matt Cox**
Directed by **Daniela Melgar**

PUFFS

OR SEVEN INCREASINGLY
EVENTFUL YEARS
AT A CERTAIN SCHOOL
OF MAGIC AND MAGIC



7PM **JANUARY 30 TO FEBRUARY 1**
AND FEBRUARY 6-8

FEBRUARY 1 AND 8 **2PM**



**Mercer Island
High School Drama
Performing Arts Center**
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9100 SE 42nd St.,
Mercer Island, WA 98040

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Puffs is presented by arrangement with Concord
Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.



or
Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain
School of Magic and Magic

By **Matt Cox**



Director: Daniela Melgar

Student Director: Marco McGuire

Technical Director: Phoebe Kim

Set Design: Tessa Baumgarten, Kaitlyn
Eikel, Ren Evans, Rowan Porteus, mentor
Sarah Giese

Heather Chvany, Enrique Hernandez, and
Christy Kenyon

Lighting Design: Anouk Despres, Phoebe
Kim, Kate Kosmiskas, Hunter Maughan,
Alex Millman Eva Peng, mentor Lydia
Hogg

Sound Design: Carmen Castillo, Colin
Dowdy, Robin Torris, mentor Sean
Curran

Costume Design: Carolann Voltarel

Prop Design: Parks Carson, Trevor
Hockley, Hadley Survana, Hannah

Umar, mentor Katy Ramsey

Sound Engineer: Sean Curran

Choreographer: Katy Ramsey

Lead Carpenter: Sarah Giese

Photographer/Videographer: Alex Chvany

Technical Consultant: Robin Giese

Lead Electrician: Robin Giese

Production Coordinator: Katy Ramsey



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we gather on Indigenous land, the ancestral territory of the Coast Salish People, past and present. We honor with gratitude the land itself and the Duwamish Tribe. We encourage you to learn about the land you reside on and to join us in advocating for the inherent sovereignty of indigenous people. This acknowledgment does not replace authentic relationships with Indigenous communities but serves as a first step in honoring the land we are on and the people and cultures it has nurtured.

TAKING OF PICTURES DURING
PERFORMANCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!



Director's Note:

Upon learning that I had been sorted into the Puffs' house back in 2004, I was sure a mistake had been made. My brother, who had no idea about this wild world of magic, asked the wizard what in the world it meant that I, his older sister, was a Puff. "It means she's loyal, a good friend, a hard worker, and wants everyone to win!" At the time, that description sounded so benign and boring compared to the Braves or the Smarts.

Here I am, 20 years later, incredibly giddy and proud to embrace all things Puff. Though often overlooked or ignored in the books, this play shines a light on the spirit, silliness, humor, and truth of some of the kindest, most generous characters in the story. The audience has an opportunity to see what was happening in House Puff while Harry and his friends were fighting the forces of evil. The Puffs' loyalty, friendship, and hard work are central to the success of the story, and this irreverent play allows us to laugh at and with the energy of these warm-hearted characters.

I have so loved directing this play, as it makes me laugh out loud every single rehearsal- we have all needed a little magic and a little goodness in our lives as of late. The students have been hard at work on this since



late November, and have enjoyed exploring the different characters and relationships in the story.

Together we have created this whimsical piece of storytelling- throw in the artistry and design of the theatre tech class and we invite you to immerse yourself in the warmth and magic of our story.

I believe the heart and authenticity of the Puffs is what helps good prevail in the world of witches and wizards. May we take that energy out into the real world.

There will be a 10-minute intermission.

Setting

Location: A Certain School of Female Magic and Male Magic

Time: 1991-1998

DATES:

CAST:

30th Opening

We are not a threat (A)

31st Friday

Please be our friend (B)

1st Saturday Matinee

Please be our friend (B)

2nd Saturday Night

We are not a threat (A)

6th Thursday Night

Please be our friend (B)

7th Friday

We are not a threat (A)

8th Saturday Matinee

We are not a threat (A)

8th Closing

Please be our friend (B)



CAST

Role Actor

Wayne Hopkins (Cast A) Alon Ten-Ami

Wayne Hopkins (Cast B) Megan Mears

Oliver Rivers (Cast A).....Noga Ten-Ami

Oliver Rivers (Cast B)..... Tiger Yang

Megan Jones (Cast A)..... Andrea Dondisch

Megan Jones (Cast B)..... Ruball Dhillon

Narrator (Cast A)Sophia Mecklai

Narrator (Cast B)..... Esme Dixon

Ernie Mac, A Very Tall Man,Colin Dowdy
Seamus, A Certain Potions Teacher, Professor Turban,
Ghost History Teach, Professor Locky, Mr. Nick, Sal, Second
Headmaster, Real Mr Moody e3 Dragon

Hannah, Meredith Weaver
First Headmaster, Professor McG, Professor Sproutty, Xavia Jones,
Professor Lanny, Runes Teach, Ms. Babble



Role Actor

J. Finch Fletchley, Goyle,..... Den Vaganov
Clumsy Longbottom, Viktor, Mr. Bagman

Leanne, Ginny, Helga, Omolara Olusanya
Frenchy, Zach Smith

Sally Perks, Hermeeone, Blondo Malfoy, Karis Chow
Rowena, Rita Scooter, Bippy

Susie Bones, Harry, Colin, Anja Hutto
Hermeeone #2, Ric Gryff, Myrtle

Cedric, Mr. Voldy, Uncle Dave, Kyle Gerstel
Hermeeone #3, Fat Friar, Anthony Goldstein (Cast A)

Cedric, Mr. Voldy, Uncle Dave, Marco McGuire
Hermeeone #3, Fat Friar, Anthony Goldstein (Cast B)

***The roles normally played by Omolara Olusanya will be played by*
Jose Igtiben on February 1 at 2pm.

Saturdays Build Teams:

Robin Torris, Megan Mears, Colin Dowdy, Anja Hutto, Greg
Chvany, Parks Carson, Sophia Mecklai, Den Vaganov, Kaitlyn
Eikel, Karis Chow, Hadley Suvarna



CREW

Stage Manager: Wilder Giannini-Upton

Assistant Stage Manager: Phoebe Kim

Box Office Manager: Ren Evans

Poster Design: Shawn Linder

Lightboard Operator: Kate Kosmiskas

Sound Board Operator: Carmen Castillo

Prop Master: Chloe Babng and Parks Carson

Projectionist: Parks Carson

Stage Crew: Kaitlyn Eikel, Hannah Umar, Hadley Suvarna

Dressers: Anouk Despres, Hunter Maughan, Alex Millman

Dance Captain: Meredith Weaver

Hair & Makeup: Pilar Buosono

House Managers: Heather Chvany, Enrique

Hernandez, and Christy Kenyon

Box Office: Ren Evans

Ushers: Liam Aggar, Everett Guillemette, Lucia Buosono

Meal Coordination: Erin McGuire and Jeanne Weaver

Program: Lital Ten-Ami

Puffs Cast & Crew Bios:



Karis Chow (Sally Perks, Hermione, Blendo Malfoy, Rowena, Rita Scooter and Bippy) is a sophomore at MIHS. She has been part of the drama program since her Freshman year. You may have recognized her in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Snuggles the Joiner. Drama is really fun because it is fun to wear cool costumes and working with others is always fun. Theater class is always filled with positive energy and this is where all the magic happens. Sometimes memorizing lines and overcoming stage fright is hard; she always does her best to be prepared for shows. When she is not reciting her lines, she karokes with her friends and tortures her friends with French songs/practicing French. She can be found at her house singing fun songs with her friends and drinking a lot of milk. For sports, she also plays tennis too. Tennis is always a fun and energetic sport. Also she is a huge clothes lover and fashion lover.



Ruball Dhillon (Megan Jones) is a senior at MIHS. You may have seen her as Beth March in *Little Women* or stage-managing *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has been a part of the MIHS Drama program for four years, and she is the Vice president of the Drama Club and Thespian coordinator. When she is not in the auditorium, you can usually find her forcing her friends to hang out with her or taking long drives. She hopes you love this amazing show and have fun watching her be goth!!



Esme Dixon (Narrator) is a sophomore at MIHS. You may have seen her last year as the splendiferous sprite Puck in Drama 1's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, or this year as the Interviewer in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She enjoys complaining about things that she actually enjoys (like theater), spending a ton of time online shopping (without actually buying anything in her

cart), the smell of Home Depot, stalking people's Instagram notes, and generally being silly. Esme doesn't dislike a lot of things, but you know what she really doesn't like? When Kaitlyn and Hadley steal her phone. That makes her very sad :'(She loves her techies very much though!!) Anyway, she hopes you enjoy the show and pleaseeee don't forget to go see her gorgeous fantastic lovely special intelligent beautiful kind generous talented double Sophia!!!! Oh, and cause she never gets to say it in the show...Hüüüüüüü!!!!!!!



Andrea Dondisch (Megan Jones) is a Senior at MIHS. This is her second to last play at Mercer Island and hopes to make the best of it. You might have seen her previously play Aunt March (*Little Women*) or Smeraldina (*Servant of two Masters*). You might have also seen her work as a playwright this year in her play

Stranded. Outside of school Andrea loves to listen to music, bake, and hangout with friends and family. She really hopes you enjoy seeing her as an emo. She also wishes you to enjoy the play and laugh nonstop.



Anouk Smague-Despres (Dresser) is a freshman at MIHS. She was also the co-propmaster (the best one) and run crew for *Little Shop of Horrors*. She hopes you learn some spells during the show! Avifors! *bird appears* And don't forget, **THIRD OR NOTHING!** (Erectio!)



Colin Dowdy (Ernie Mac/A Very Tall Man/Seamus/A Certain Potions Teacher/Professor Turban/Ghost History Teach/Professor Locky/Mr. Nick/Sal/Second Headmaster/Real Mr. Moody/The Dragon/Soul Sucking Security Guard) is a senior at MIHS. You may have seen him as Dr. Lombardi in *Servant of Two Masters*, or Mr. March in *Little Women* last year. He now realizes

his list of characters takes up about one third of the word count for this. During his downtime from Memorizing lines and procrastinating school work, he enjoys hanging out with friends or spending time on his computer.



Kyle Gerstel (Cedric/Mr. Voldy/Others) is a senior performing in his 11th MIHS production. You may have seen him as Seymour (Little Shop of Horrors), King Arthur (Spamalot), or Danny Zuko (Grease). Kyle is the President of Drama Club and a member of the Improv Club Presidential Triumvirate with castmate Tiger Yang and audience member Alex Hardisty.

Outside of school, Kyle is the Producing Artistic Director of Penguin Productions, a theatre organization dedicated to uniting youth leadership with adult mentorship. He enjoys sending Instagram reels to Jascha Silberstein without opening the ones Jascha sends, watching obscure movies with Connor Wood, and entering Ashwin Krishnaswamy's house without his knowledge.



Wilder Giannini-Upton (Stage Manager) is a sophomore at MIHS. Typically acting on stage (most recently as Oberon and Theseus in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Mr Lee in Second Language), they were excited to have this opportunity to work backstage partnering with our amazing tech crew! Since he is rarely seen

wearing anything other than black, the transition was fairly smooth... When not in a dark corner of the theater, Wilder is most likely at wrestling practice, kickboxing, or working with animals.



Anja Hutto (Susie Bones/ Harry/ Myrtle/ Ric Gryff/ Colin/ Hermeeone #2) is a sophomore at MIHS. You may have seen her as Helena in Drama I's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream or as Mrs. Luce in Little Shop of Horrors. When she's not acting, you can find her skateboarding, listening to many hours of music, playing guitar or doing history homework backstage. She hopes you enjoy the show!!



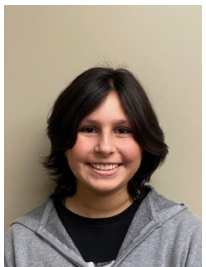
Megan Mears (Wayne Hopkins) is a sophomore at MIHS, and she loves the drama program so much. This is their first time playing a lead role and is super excited. When not at school or rehearsal, you might find him doing homework or lying on the floor being unproductive. Recent shows you may have seen them in are Little Shop of Horrors, The 2024 MIHS Playwriting Project (specifically in Itsy Bitsy), A Midsummer Night's Dream, Into the Woods, and Spamalot. Megan loves her cast very much but also recommends that you go see cast We Are Not a Threat featuring her amazing double, Alon Ten-Ami and others. She hopes you enjoy the show and that you do not confuse her with the character of the same name. Megan is not a threat and wants you to be their friend. (Also shoutout to the techies and Drama I, ily!) (For those of you confused by their bio, Megan has no preference for gendered words and likes to mix it up.)



Hunter Maughan (Dresser) is a Senior at MIHS. You might have (not) seen him as the puppeteer in *Little Shop of Horrors*, or the lightboard operator in *Spamalot* and *Little Women*. When not teching, you can find him in his room or working at the South QFC. He's happy to be putting more hours into the theater over the past two years, and finishing off his high school career as an actor. Although he's happy to see you at Puffs, he's actually a Gryffindor.



Marco McGuire (Cedric/Mr. Voldy, Others) is a senior at MIHS. You may have seen them as Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Laurie in *Little Women*, Patsy in *Spamalot*, and more! As well as act in, they are so excited to be the assistant director of Puffs! When not acting, you can find him struggling with college applications, creating short films with friends (follow his film account @mcguiremakes1 on Youtube/Instagram), or getting Starbucks with their twin Kiera (who's probably asking Marco to pay for her). He hopes you enjoy the show!



Hadley Suvarna (Run Crew) is a sophomore at MIHS. She did not write her bio so Esme did it for her. You're welcome.



Sophia Mecklai (Narrator) is a sophomore at MIHS. You may have seen her Royal Highness as Queen Titania in last year's incredible Drama I production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* where if you did not see it, one how rude (but she forgives you because you're here for this one :D) two she fell in love with a donkey aaaand an adorable puppy made a guest appearance. If she's not acting you might see her around the island dancing with Creation dance studio, baking, or rehearsing her dances in the kitchen while baking. She also loves yapping and yaps a lot ... (most of the time) and she's excited for you to watch her do this while representing THE PUFFS!! She hopes you have the opportunity to watch both casts including her spectacular double Esme. Most of all she hopes you thoroughly enjoy this wickedly hilarious and magical show!



Alex Millman (Dresser) is a senior at MIHS. She has previously been the music director for a rendition of the play *Indecent with Young Americans' Theatre Company*, and she is excited to get the chance to tech for Puffs. When she's not in the theater, you can probably find her off reading somewhere. She enjoys drawing, hanging out with her family and friends, and looking at the stars.



Omolara Olusanya

(Leanne/Ginny/Helga/Zach Smith/Frenchy) is a junior at MIHS and is really excited to be performing in her first Drama 2 production. Earlier this year, she had the pleasure of playing Audrey in the fall musical Little Shop of Horrors, which she enjoyed immensely. Outside of drama, she can be found struggling to sleep more than 5 hours as she juggles drama as well as the MIHS Drill Team's intense competition season. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Eva Peng (Dresser) is a Senior. She was in Little Shop of Horrors and Spamalot. Outside of drama, she loves fiction, writing, curling, but nevertheless is a procrastinator (sorry!). She recently joined DI and a few other clubs. Even though she has begun quite some amounts of writing, a miserable amount is either not done or

over edited (womp). Also, she hopes to improve her art and music skills, finally fulfilling some New Year's Resolutions from years prior (oops). She hopes that you enjoy the play, and her favourite part is Lord Voldy not understanding modern tech!



Kaitlyn Eikel (Run crew) is a sophomore at MIHS, they are super skibidi :) and not sorry for stealing Esme's phone. <3



Alon Ten-Ami (Wayne Hopkins) is a sophomore (but lowkey just a chill guy) at MIHS and is excited to perform in his 3rd MIHS production! His previous roles at MI include Mr. Mushnik (Little Shop of Horrors) and Lysander (A Midsummer Night's Dream), as well as Jack (Into the Woods) at Youth Theater Northwest.

You may have also seen his short play, Itsy Bitsy, in this year's Playwriting Project, and can look forward to seeing him as Hades in HADESTOWN at YTN. When not performing, Alon enjoys traveling, watching musicals, listening to an absurd amount of showtunes, and hanging out with friends. He highly recommends you see the other cast with his incredible double, Megan Mears! He is very glad to get the opportunity to work so closely with his sister, Noga Ten-Ami (Oliver), as it is her senior year, and he will miss her very much. He hopes you enjoy the show!!



Noga Ten-Ami (Oliver Rivers) is a Senior at MIHS. You may have seen her last year as Marmee in Little Women or Brighella in Servant of Two Masters. Noga is the Community Outreach Officer of the Drama Club. When she isn't onstage, Noga enjoys spending long hours with her family, drinking coffee, reading, and watching all sorts of movies and tv shows. Don't

miss Tiger Yang as Oliver in the other cast. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Meredith Weaver (Hannah/First Headmaster/Professor McG/Professor Sprouty/Xavia Jones/Professor Lanny/ Runes Teach/Ms. Babble) is a senior at MIHS. She has been part of the drama program since her freshman year. Perhaps you remember her as Josephine in *Little Women* or Dr. Lombardi in *The Servant of Two Masters*. Guys, coming up

with eight different characters is really difficult. There are only so many personalities. When not in the auditorium, Meredith can be found in her sanctuary (bedroom) or out being a teenager doing teenager things with her friends.



Tiger Yang (Oliver Rivers) is a junior at MIHS and despite his astounding “success” with math, is thrilled to bring the joys of mathematical nerdiness beautifully rooted in this character. You might have seen him in his previous roles, notably Orin (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Prince Herbert (*Spamalot*), Pantalone (*Servant of Two Masters*), or Mr. Lawrence (*Little Women*).

Tiger Yang is also overjoyed to also be a part of the Improv Club Presidential Triumvirate with bathroom buddy Kyle Gerstel and the graceful Alex Hardisty and is also president of the successful eSports club. Outside of school, Tiger Yang can be found nestled in the rhythm game section of Round 1, taking his unusually long naps, or found in the McDonald's parking lot scanning for those yummy deals. Don't miss Noga Ten-Ami in the other cast either and get you some Oliver^2 cause two is always better than one, he hopes you enjoy the show and are ready to see some magic.



Kate Kosmiskas (Light-board operator) is a sophomore at MIHS. They previously ran the light board in *Little Shop of Horrors* and are excited to continue for this show. They hope you enjoy the (Non-Copyright) production of *Puffs*!



Phoebe Kim (Technical Director/Assistant Stage Manager) is a junior at MIHS. *Puffs* is their ninth show at MIHS. You may have seen their lighting design in shows such as *Little Shop of Horrors* or *The Servant of Two Masters*. They hope you enjoy the show!



Hannah Umar (Run Crew) is a senior at MIHS. She hopes you enjoy the show! :)

Carmen Castillo (Sound Board Operator) is a sophomore at MIHS. They are finally getting to run the sound board for this show, which they didn't end up getting to do the last one. You'd think this would lead to a more passionate biography, but it doesn't. They hope you enjoy the show!



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Special Thanks

*A Grateful shout-out to the Drama Booster Board
Thank you for your incredible & indelible support!*

*ALL OF THE PARENTS who supported this show.
Katy Ramsey for being rad and for dealing with my
million questions that I ask one million times.
Sarah Giese for her beautiful concepts and ideas.
Sean Curran for his knowledge and sense of humor.
Anne Reinking and Vandana Makker, for forcing me to
start reading the Potter series all those years ago.
Shana Kitchen for loving me no matter what.
This show is for Jack, the sweetest, snuggliest kitty
around. He was definitely a Puff while he was here on
this earth.*

*Juanita Drama
Valerie Perine
Michael Ketchum
Nick Wold
Kristin Brintnall
Becky LeMaster
Rachel Hood
Amy Connoley*



Our Amazing Season Continues!



Save the date:

- ◇ *Fine Arts Showcase: Performing Arts Night April 2nd*
- ◇ *12 Angry Jurors April 24-26 and May 1-3 at 7pm, and April 26 and May 3 at 2pm*
- ◇ *Drama Awards & Celebration May 7th 7:00 pm*
- ◇ *Improv Show- May 9th*
- ◇ *Drama 1 Spring Show- May 15th*
- ◇ *Drama 2 Cabaret- May 29th*
- ◇ *MISD Drama Spotlight- June 5th*

Performances are held in the MIHS Performing Arts Center (PAC)

Attending student performances is one of the best ways to support performing arts and education at MIHS.



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- ◇ *Your logo displayed on posters across Mercer Island*
- ◇ *Logo placement in the program*
- ◇ *Recognition on our social media and website*



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- ◇ *Your company will be acknowledged before each performance of the show*
- ◇ *4 tickets for the show*
- ◇ *Logo placement in the program*

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- ◇ *Applause! \$250*
- ◇ *Bravo! \$500 (suggested per student)*
- ◇ *Encore! \$750*
- ◇ *Other – Any amount is greatly appreciated*

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Email Debi Gerstel at bravomisdb@gmail.com



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Thank you!

*Where magic meets stage, and
dreams come true, our next show
awaits you!*

