

THE HOUSE AT POOH CORNER

Christopher
Robin

Kanga &
Roo

Rabbit

Tigger

Pooh

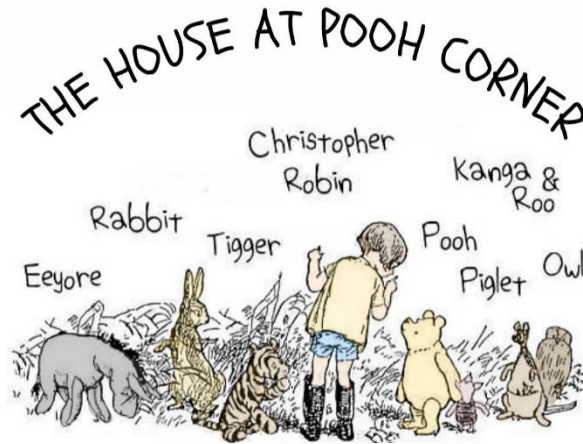
Eeyore

Piglet

Owl



**MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY'S J. WILLIAM AND MARY DIEDERICH
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION
DIGITAL MEDIA AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT
MARQUETTE THEATRE
DEBRA KRAJEC, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
PRESENTS**



February 2-4, 2024

Director - Natalie Murray

Stage Management - Kelsie Paige Kasky

Scenic Design - Eric Rorholm

Costume Design - Olivia "Babs" Babolea

Lighting Design - Joshua Soape

Properties Head – Ethan Jacoby-Henrickson

Sound Design - Kynkade McLachlan

Video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

Marquette University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST).

**MARQUETTE
THEATRE**

CAST

Pooh.....	Cari Nelson
Piglet.....	Iris DeWeerd
Christopher Robin.....	Michael Kratzer
Rabbit.....	Sophia Stockhausen
Early.....	Erin Cavender
Late.....	Michelle Cecchin
Kanga.....	Shannon Burke
Roo.....	Josh Zientara
Eeyore.....	Mia Figueroa
Owl.....	Grayson Buesing
Tigger.....	Evie Blasius

UNDERSTUDIES

Pooh U/S.....	Draylin Pickett
Piglet U/S.....	Shannon Burke
Christopher Robin U/S.....	Teddy Kister
Rabbit and Tigger U/S.....	Miranda Croll
Early and Late U/S.....	Matthew Schacht
Kanga U/S.....	Sophia Stockhausen
Roo U/S.....	Michelle Cecchin
Eeyore U/S.....	Erin Cavender
Owl and Early U/S.....	Josh Zientara

SETTING

Hundred Acre Wood

There is one 10-minute intermission.

The show runs approximately 70 minutes.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR & STAGE MANAGER

A play is like a good piece of writing: it requires true and honest collaboration, and it undergoes multiple deep revisions.

With a story like this one, play is imperative, and exploration leads to discoveries right up until opening night—and even mid-performance! I’m most proud of my actors for rolling with the metaphorical punches and trusting me to lead them in the right direction even as I ask them to take agency and make bold choices of their own. In this way, rehearsing for a play is again much like writing in that you create your best work when you’re having the most fun! Both our actors and our production team have made this process an absolute joy that lifted weights I didn’t even know were on my shoulders. And in the moments when I felt the most lost and asked Kelsie and my actors to trust me with a weird idea to break a funk, their support and belief in the show has taught me what’s important in creating this art.

Kelsie here! I’m never sure where to begin because my heart is just so full! First, I’ll say this: I’m so eternally thankful to everyone who made this project come to life! Nat and I met during our first year at Marquette because we lived on the same floor, and both had majors in English! At one point during the year Nat asked why I wasn’t in the Theatre Department and my reply was, “I don’t know!” So, here we are, celebrating the culmination of our Theatre Arts education through our Capstone project! I just knew this

show was the right choice. I wanted a theatre for young audiences play because it fit perfectly with my education degree, and I grew up watching Pooh and friends all the time! I used to eat cheerios with honey while I watched Pooh on the TV and played the V-Tech game! I truly believe that everyone can learn from Pooh, so we wanted to bring the magical Hundred Acre Wood to life! I am so happy and honored to have crafted my love for Stage Management here at Marquette, a skill I grew up learning about (thank you, Mom and Grammy!). Being trusted to foster a safe, happy, fun, creative, loving rehearsal environment is one I do *not* take lightly and will forever be honored to take on. I hope you can feel the love from the booth!

We cannot thank you all enough for joining us in celebrating our Senior Capstone! We hope you enjoy the show and with a little help from A.A. Milne ...

“You must always remember:
You are braver than you believe,
Stronger than you seem,
Smarter than you think,
and Loved more than you know!”

CAST BIOGRAPHIES (in alphabetical order)



Evie Blasius (Tigger)

Evie is a freshman from Lake Villa, Illinois and is a Theatre Arts major! This is her first acting role at Marquette University. She was a part of wardrobe crew for both *A Piece of my Heart* and *The Servant of Two Masters* and is also Assistant Costume Designer for *Sweeney Todd*. She would like to thank the company of *The House at Pooh Corner* for this fun opportunity! Finally, she hopes you have as much fun watching the show as we have running around on stage!



Grayson Buesing (Owl)

Grayson is a freshman from Mequon, Wisconsin, studying Theatre Arts and Journalism. *The House at Pooh Corner* is his third overall production at Marquette University. He was last seen as a swing for the mainstage production of *All in the Timing*. Grayson would like to thank the brilliant and energetic crew of The House at Pooh Corner for being such a fun group to create this production with, and he hopes that you enjoy the world of the Hundred Acre Wood!



Shannon Burke (Kanga, Piglet U/S)

Shannon is absolutely overjoyed to be a part of this project. She is a sophomore from St. Louis, Missouri, who's majoring in Anthropology and minoring in Theology and Theater Arts. They have always loved the Hundred Acre Woods, thanks in part to their Grandma Ceal and their parents giving them a Winnie-the-Pooh baby blanket. Shannon is pretty sure this is her 24th production. Last year she participated in a Marquette Senior Capstone, *John Proctor is the Villain*, as Beth Powell. Keen eyed viewers will have seen their most recent work as costume designer for *Words, Words, Words* in *All in the Timing*. Their experience with this show has been a joy, and Shannon believes Pooh said it best, "Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart."



Erin Cavender (Early, Eeyore U/S)

Erin is a sophomore Theatre Arts major and Communication Studies minor from Prospect Heights, IL. She was previously seen on the Helfaer stage as a Porter and Clarice u/s in *The Servant of Two Masters* and Betty u/s in *All in the Timing*. She also sound designed for *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She currently works as an Administrative Assistant at the Helfaer Theater and is a member of A Moment of Magic. Erin would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support and the cast and crew of *The House at Pooh Corner* for all the laughs. She cannot wait for everyone to see the hard work that this team has put into this production, and she hopes you enjoy your “explore” into the Hundred Acre Wood!



Michelle Cecchin (Late, Roo U/S)

Michelle Cecchin is a senior from Wheeling, IL, who is double majoring in Marketing and Information Systems with a minor in Theatre Arts! Some of her previous credits include *All in the Timing* (Betty in “Sure Thing!”), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Cecily Cardew), and *The Wolves* (#2) at Marquette, as well as *Pride and Prejudice* (Elizabeth Bennet), and *The Sound of Music* (Liesl Von Trapp) in Chicago. Michelle is so excited to bring this show to life and would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her (and her love of all things Disney), as well as everyone who has taken the time to come see our show/support the arts!



Miranda Croll (Rabbit & Tigger U/S)

Miranda is a Freshman from the Quad Cities area in Iowa majoring in Theatre Arts. This is her second acting role at Marquette, her first being Markus in *All in the Timing*. She has also been Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Porthos in *The Three Musketeers*, and Grace in *What I Did Last Summer*. Miranda has loved working with such an amazing company. She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has!



Iris DeWeerd (Piglet)

Iris is a freshman majoring in theatre arts. This is her second production at Marquette, her first being *All in the Timing*. She is so happy to get the chance to work with everyone. She would like to thank her friends and family who have supported her along with everyone who has come to see the show!



Mia Figueroa (Eeyore)

Mia is a second-year pre-pharmacy biology major from Hainesville, Illinois, who is so excited to be back on the Marquette mainstage! Mia has been seen most notably in Marquette Second Stage show *The Wolves* as Soccer Mom and 2023 capstone production *John Proctor is the Villain* as Beth Powell u/s, along with writing and performing as part of The Comet Project ensemble. Mia has had so much fun working on *The House at Pooh Corner* and hopes you have just as much fun watching it!



Teddy Kister (Christopher Robin U/S)

Teddy is a senior from Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. He is majoring in Biological Sciences and minoring in Digital Media. This is his first role at Marquette. He is a dedicated member of the Marquette Filmmakers Association. He loves watching movies and being in them as well. He is so proud and thankful for everyone in the cast and crew for all their hard work!



Michael Kratzer (Christopher Robin)

Michael is a freshman Theatre Arts major from Denver, Colorado. This is his third role here at Marquette, his first being Porter #3 in *The Servant of Two Masters*, and his second being Philip Glass in *All in the Timing*. Prior to his time here, he played various other roles including Big Stone in *Eurydice*, Ben Jonson in *The Book of Will*, Father in *The Book of Everything*, as well as director of *The Addams Family Jr.* all through the Denver School of the Arts Theatre Company. He is so grateful for the opportunity he has been given and cannot wait to spend the next four years here honing his skills.



Cari Nelson (Pooh)

Cari is a sophomore from Grayslake, Illinois, studying speech-language pathology and Spanish. She was most recently seen on stage in the Comet Project and as the female swing in *A Piece of my Heart*. Cari is also part of Dance Inc, and she cherishes all the time she has been able to spend dancing her heart out with her friends. She is so grateful to the production team of *The House at Pooh Corner* and her castmates for all their support and kindness. She'd like to thank her family for introducing her to Winnie the Pooh when she was very small, and she truly hopes you enjoy this beautiful show!



Draylin Pickett (Pooh U/S)

Draylin is a freshman from Decatur, AL, who is majoring in Theatre Arts. He has previously been seen in productions such as *Mamma Mia!* (Sam), *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical* (Sam the Snowman), and *All in the Timing* (Trotsky Understudy). He would like to thank God, his grandma, his brother, and his mom for their love and support. He hopes that you enjoy the show!



Matthew Schacht (Early & Late U/S)

Matthew Schacht is a first year at Marquette University with a background in and love for theatre. He previously was in *Into the Woods* in his senior year of high school and was an understudy in *The Servant of Two Masters* during his first semester at Marquette. He's excited to discover more things in life.



Sophia Stockhausen (Rabbit, Kanga U/S)

Sophia is a junior Digital Media major and Theatre and Anthropology double minor from Columbus, Ohio. She has been seen both on stage and off – her latest work has been *All in the Timing* as an understudy, and *A Piece of My Heart* as a stage manager. She would like to thank everyone involved in this production and for all the hard work they've done. She hopes you enjoy the show and explore your inner child with her!



Josh Scott Zientara (Roo, Owl & Early U/S)

Josh would like to begin by saying, "Thanks for coming!" Josh is a freshman. You may have seen him in The Comet Project or in the understudy performance of *All in the Timing*. Maybe you already know him, or if you don't, you might have wondered, "Who is this Waldo-looking guy wearing an 'Are You My Dad' hat?" That's him. He's had a bunch of fun with this incredible cast! He would also like to end by saying, "Everyone is incredibly talented and creative. So please, enjoy the show!"

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES (in alphabetical order)

Olivia “Babs” Babolea (Costume Designer)

Olivia “Babs” Babolea is a freshman from Wilmette, Illinois. *The House at Pooh Corner* is their first designer assignment with Marquette Theatre. They have worked on a variety of productions throughout high school and at their local theatre community: Mudlark. They are excited about the amazing opportunity they have and can’t wait to expand their skills over the next four years. They would like to thank their friends and family.

Karen Estrada (Capstone Community Advisor & Voice of Christopher Robin’s Mom)

Karen Estrada is an actor, director, and theater educator who calls Milwaukee home. She’d had the pleasure of working with Chamber Theater, First Stage, Next Act, Renaissance Theaterworks, Third Avenue Playworks, Skylight Music Theatre, Milwaukee Opera Theatre and is a three-time alumna of the Disney on Classic tour of Japan and Taiwan. Karen is also proud to have directed pieces for Renaissance’s Brinks Briefs, Chamber Theater’s Young Playwright Festival, Toward Theater’s Monologue Festival, First Stage Milwaukee’s World Premiere *On the Wings of a Mariposa* and YC’s *Little Women* and for Marquette University.

Stephen Hudson-Mairet (Capstone Faculty Advisor)

This season marks Stephen’s 24th at Marquette, and he is happy to share the good work of our students with you. Thank you so much for your support of Marquette Theatre and Marquette’s theatre arts students, especially Kelsie and Natalie on their senior capstone! Thank you for your support of the arts across our community – live performances help keep Milwaukee and Marquette amazing places to live and work.

Ethan Jacoby-Henrickson (Properties Head)

Ethan is a Senior from Combined Locks, WI, and is excited to be designing for this Senior Capstone at Marquette. He is a double major in Theatre Arts and Digital Media. Previous experiences at Marquette include sound operator for *Silent Sky*, *Pantalone Dei Bisognosi* in *The Servant of Two Masters*, and sound designer for *All in the Timing*. Outside of theatre, he is a member of Marquette University’s Bowling Club and a member of the Christian Motocyclists Association. He would like to thank his family for their continued support as well as the director and producer.

Kelsie Paige Kasky (Stage Manager)

Kelsie is a Senior from Shorewood, IL, who is triple majoring in Secondary Education, English, and Theatre Arts and minoring in Dance. Her stage management credits include *All in the Timing*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and co-ASMin *Antigone*. Her most recent Marquette onstage credits include Martha from *A Piece of My Heart*, Raelynn from *John Proctor is the Villain*, and #46 in *The Wolves*. Kelsie is very thankful to the entire team for making this senior capstone dream come true! She hopes the Hundred Acre Wood brings you as much joy as it brought her since she was little. KP would love to thank her family and friends for their support and Marquette Theatre for being another place to call home! Mo, thank you for everything, always.

Deb Krajec (Capstones Director, Associate Professor & Artistic Director)

Deb serves as a faculty member, a Stage Director, and a Costume Designer at Marquette. She received her MFA from Texas Christian University and has worked professionally as a costume designer, a director, and an actor. She directed *A Piece of My Heart* for Marquette Theatre's Second Stage series in October. Deb has been part of the Marquette Theatre Department for 40 years and has loved every minute of her time here. She will retire this May and is treasuring her last semester. She would like to express her gratitude to our audience members for supporting live Theatre at Marquette and the work of our aspiring young artists. To Kelsie and Natalie – I am so lucky to have had you as students the past 4 years. You have been bright stars, and it has been wonderful to see you really begin to shine. You are both headed for great things after Marquette.

Kynkade McLachlan (Sound Designer)

Kynkade McLachlan is a sophomore at Marquette University. She is a Theatre Major and Gender and Sexualities Studies Minor. The first time she ever sound designed was Marquette Theatre's 2022-2023 second stage series of "The Wolves." She loved being a vital part of the process and was excited to create a story with this play. She is so proud of each person involved in this process and hopes you enjoy this beautiful story!

Natalie Murray (Director)

Natalie Murray is a senior from St. Louis, MO triple majoring in Writing Intensive English, Theatre Arts, and French and minoring in Digital Media. Her previous direction credits include *Words Words Words* in Marquette's production of *All in the Timing* and AD under Isabelle Andress for *John Proctor is the Villain*. Her most recent credits as a performer include Smeraldina in *The Servant of Two Masters*, #13 in *The Wolves*, and Leaf in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Natalie is incredibly thankful to the cast for trusting her and themselves in telling this story and to Kelsie for keeping her head on straight throughout the process. She'd like to thank her family and friends for their endless support. She hopes these woods can imbue in you some calm and magic as they have for her.

Margaret Pabst (Assistant Stage Manager)

Margaret Pabst is a freshman majoring in Digital Media and Advertising. She was recently an ASM for *All in the Timing*, and she has a background in stage management from high school. She hopes everyone enjoys this wonderful show :)

Connie L. Petersen (Capstone Faculty Advisor & Costume Shop Manager)

Connie is excited to return to her 22nd season at Marquette with such energetic new freshmen and seasoned upperclassmen. She received her B.S. degree in theatre from Northwest Missouri State University and M.F.A. degree in Costume and Scenic Design from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. She has worked professionally for Door Shakespeare, Central City Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Denver Center Theatre Company, and Playmakers Repertory Company at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Connie spends her free time with her two daughters, Emma and Olivia, who are quite busy around Brookfield. Connie was recently elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors with the Elmbrook Education Foundation.

Eric Rorholm (Scenic Designer)

Eric Rorholm is a first year Trinity Fellow at Marquette pursuing his master's in political science. He is a MU Theatre alum '21 and previously designed Marquette's *Peter & the Starcatcher* and lights for *Arnie the Doughnut*. He is so honored to work with this amazing group of young people. Thank you to Adam and Johannah for the support! All glory to God. Go vote!

Joshua Soape (Lighting Designer)

Joshua is a junior psychology and theatre arts major from Flower Mound, Texas. He has previously been backstage at Marquette as lighting designer for *A Piece of My Heart*. Joshua was Eeyore for his first Halloween, so this show means a lot to him. He hopes you enjoy this lovely production!



We would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all those who donated and helped us raise money to make this project come true! We know that theatre requires a community, and we could not be more thankful for ours, near and far.

A special shout-out to Sobelmans Pub n Grill for hosting a fundraiser for us!

Stop in at Sobelmans Pub n Grill to enjoy Milwaukee's best burgers & bloodies!



1900 W St Paul Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53233

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director	Stephen Hudson-Mairet
Scene Shop Supervisor	Peter O'Neill
Costume Shop Manager	Connie Petersen
Asst. Costume Shop Supervisor/Cutter/Draper	Amelia Strahan
Stage Manager	Kelsie Paige Kasky
Assistant Stage Manager	Margaret Pabst
Props Master	Ethan Jacoby-Henrickson
Light Board Operator	Ben Shields
Sound Board Operator	Nate Rodriguez
Deck/Wardrobe Crew	Lauryn Middleton, Esther Akinsanya
Costume Shop Assistants	Bailee Barton, Eva Hesse, Lauryn Middleton, Sophia Stockhausen
Administrative Assistants	Erin Cavender, Cassidy O'Neil
House Manager & Set Build Volunteer	Morgan Guetschow

PLEASE, JOIN US IN APRIL FOR SWEENEY TODD!

April 5-14, 2024

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