



**Youth Ensemble Theatre Inc.
Presents:**



***The Plot,
Like Gravy,
Thickens***

by: Billy St. John

Directed by: Ricky Araiza

As. Directed by: Asher Johnston

December 14 - December 22, 2023

Childsplay Campus of Imagination and Wonder

Youth Ensemble Theatre Inc Presents

The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens

**Playwright:**

Billy Wayne St. John

Director:

Ricky Araiza

As. Director:

Asher Johnson

with

Mya Blackshear
Palmer Bowen
NJ Burton
Morgan Dos Santos
Eleanor Field
Eliza Fleisher

Anastasia Goro
Charlie Hendrix
Bella Johnson
Ella Kenney
Simone Krich
Joel Leon
LaRai Nichols

Oli Pearson
Cadell Red
KC Rawlings
Miles Whelan
Fern White
Finn Wisdom

Lighting & Sound

Brianna Fallon
Ada Harvey
NJ Burton
Ella Kenney
Finn Wisdom

Props & Scenic

Chris Frank
Josh Huggins
Palmer Bowen
Bella Johnson
Kinley Rawlings

Costumes & Makeup

Brenna Halverson
Emma Shea
Morgan Dos Santos
Fern White
Mya Blackshear

Crew**Stage Manager**

Alexis Nomorosa

As. Stage Manager

Kenleigh Drake

"The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens" by Billy Wayne St. John is
presented with special arrangement with
CONCORD THEATRICALS, INC.

- SCENE BREAKDOWN -

TIME: Ninteteen ninety something

PLACE: The living room in Worthington Manor.

PROLOGUE

ACT I:

A stormy Septembner night

Scene 1 - About 7:00 o'clock

Scene 2 - About two hours later

ACT II:

Several hours later

Ever want to commit a murder? The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens follows the story of Walter, the playwright's alter ego, who narrates the show under the premise that he will tell the audience how he commits a murder. He introduces the audience to tyrannical millionaire Edward Worthington's relatives, business associates, and household staff, most of whom have reason to wish the man dead. Gathered on a stormy evening at Worthington Manor to celebrate Edward's fiftieth birthday are his wife, her brother, Edward's befuddled older sister, his ex-wife, and his daughter. Also present are his shady lawyer and his uptight business manager with his giddy wife, and southern secretary, as well as the butler, the housekeeper, the maid, and the cook. Each has a motive that is established when the lights go out and the mysterious murder occurs.

Run Time: Approximately 90 Minutes

There will be a brief 10 minute intermission

- CAST BIOS & HEADSHOTS -



Mya Blackshear {Mrs. Vickers} is delighted to be working with Childsplay again. She is currently a YETi ensemble member. Her credits include Zazu in the musical The Lion King, Ms. Memory/Mrs. McGarrigle in the play 39 Steps, and Tessie in the musical Annie; as well as the Phoenix College production of The Tempest. Mya is excited to be in another production put on by YETi theater company and hopes to continue working with them.



Palmer Bowen {Roy Phillips} is excited to be apart of The Plot Like Gravy Thickens, playing they nervous and uptight Roy Phillips. This will be Palmer's fourth show with Youth Ensemble Theatre Inc.(YETi). Previous shows include: Wayne Hopkins in Puffs, Jimmu and Shelly in Almost Maine, Carmen in This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries and This Girl Does Nothing . Along with these shows, and many others, Palmer is also a former member of Childsplay's Musical Theatre Conservatory and current student at the New School for the Arts and Academics.



NJ Burton {Lawrence Tate} joined the YETi ensemble in august this year. He is part of the admin committee in the YETi ensemble, helping with the finances of YETi productions and events. Through YETi they have learned a lot about the behind the scenes of putting on a play. He is very excited to be playing Lawrence in their first ever YETi production, "The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens" NJ was previously in Kyrene Middle School's production of "The Wizard of Oz".In addition they are currently in Kyrene Middle School's production of "Matilda" as Sergei. Even though this is his first ChildsPlay production, he hopes to be in more ChildsPlay productions in the future, and continue to grow as an actor.



Morgan Dos Santos {Justine Worthington} is so excited to be apart of this show! This is her second show with YETi, and her first show as a YETi ensemble member! She played Hannah and others in Puffs, and now is playing Justine Worthington. And she is a sophomore at Horizon High School.



Eleanor Field {Peggy Sue Brumley} is a freshman at Camelback High School in Phoenix, Arizona, where she is a member of the junior varsity cheerleading team. Field's previous acting credits include Young Renata in the Arizona Opera's December 2021 production, El Milagro del Recuerdo, and Pipe's Little Sister in Stray Cat Theater's October/November 2021 production of Our Dear Dead Drug Lord. As a visiting artist at Arizona State University's Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts, she played Nugget in the March 2021 production of Heddatron, and in February/March 2020 she played Little Charlie and Sonny in the Institute's presentation of Indian School. Since 2018, Field has also attended the Herberger Institute's Community Music School, where she studies piano.



Eliza Fleisher {Beatrice Worthington Understudy} has began working with the Y.E.T.I ensemble as of this year and is incredibly excited to be performing in her first show as a part of this. Other Child's Play credits include, Heathers the Musical (Mrs Fleming). Outside of the ensemble Eliza has done Superheros with great powers comes ordinary responsibility (Storm), Alice in wonderland Jr. (Tall Alice), Almost Maine (Costume Manager) and technical work for other productions



Anastasia Goro {Allegra} The Plot Like Gravy Thickens is Anastasia's first show with Yeti, although she was involved in some smaller Childsplay productions as a younger child. She was recently in her school's rendition of Romeo and Juliet as Nurse and enjoys being a techie just as much as an actor. Prior to Romeo and Juliet, Anastasia was the makeup and hair lead for The Wizard of Oz and You Can't Take it With You which both also occurred at her High School and played various roles in a One Act titled 4 A.M.



Charlie Hendrix {Ina} has now been part of the YETi/Childsplay community for two years. This is her second production with Yeti. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and dogs! Charlie was first introduced to the world of acting when she went to her first production as a six year old actor-to-be. She is native to Arizona, but raised in New Jersey for most of her life, where she visited New York, and saw many Broadway productions. Acting has become her passion, and she can't imagine a life without it. Yeti is a safe space for kids to be themselves, and she is so happy to be playing a part in this wonderful production with a wonderful cast!



Bella Johnson {Debra} is a sophomore at Marcos De Niza High School. She is a member of the YETI ensemble and was in the past YETI show Puffs as Sally Perks and others. She has been involved with theater since she was 7 years old and has been in past Marcos De Niza productions such as Wizard of Oz (Ensemble), Yellow Boat (Chorus 3/Kid 2), and 4AM (Various Roles). She also worked on the tech crew for the Fall production of Romeo and Juliet. She is a part of choir, theater and in the fine arts program at Marcos



Ella Kenney {Edith} is on her third season of the YETi Ensemble and has participated in all of the shows so far. The shows being: Puffs (Megan Jones) Almost, Maine (Glory and Waitress) This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing (Beatrix). She has also graduated the 5 year Conservatory program at Childsplay. Ella is currently a sophomore at Marcos de Niza high school, and is the Secretary and Improv Troupe Lead of Thespian Troupe 3122. At Marcos, she participates in choir (Chamber and A Cappella), theatre, and Advanced Dance. The MainStage productions she has been involved in are You Can't Take It With You (Essie Carmichael) The Wizard of Oz (Scarecrow) and most recently Romeo and Juliet (Juliet).



Simone Krich {Peggy-Sue/Edith Understudy} is excited to be performing in this production of The Plot Like Gravy Thickens. She is a junior at Horizon High school and has a passion for theater both on stage and behind the scenes. This is her first time working with Childsplay and doing community theater. During this experience she has met many amazing people and has made many new friends during this process. She would like to give a big "Thank you" to everyone who helped make this show come together. Hope you enjoy the show!



Joel Leon {Roy Understudy} enjoys doing theater this would be his 5th play 1st play with YETi/Childsplay. He's really grateful for the role and loved the cast crew and his director he's very thankful for the opportunity and he likes the color purple.



This is LaRai Nichols' {Justine/Ina Understudy} first show at YETi and so far it has been an amazing experience for her. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming. LaRai doesn't think she could have chosen a better place and she can't wait to audition for more shows here!



Oli Pearson {Hollister} has been interested in acting and performing since a young age. They first worked with YETi in their annual playwrights festival in 2023. They are currently in the Childsplay Musical Theatre Conservatory Program in level four. Their previous credits include J Finch Fletchley in Puffs (YETi), Ram Sweeney in Heathers (Childsplay), Dr. Ehrin in Freaky Friday the Musical (Childsplay), as well working in the tech side of theater for other shows. The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens is Oli's second show with YETi.



Cadell Red {Walter} excited to make his Childsplay/YETi debut in the lovely deranged role of the show's narrator and author self insert. His previous acting experience with the NSAA theater company includes Gander Main in Trap and Phelim O'Shaughnessy in Is He Dead?.



KC Rawlings {Beatrice} joined the acting world through Childsplay in 2017. They graduated The Conservatory Program in May of 2022 and are now working as a part of the YETi ensemble (Young Ensemble Theatre Inc). Their previous productions include Ginette/Marci in Almost Maine (Childsplay), Cedric/Mr Voldy in Puffs (Childsplay), Aslan in Narnia: The Musical (Keystone Montessori), and Ensemble in The Little Mermaid (Thunder Theatre Company), and. The Plot Like Gravy Thickens is their third performance with YETi!



Miles Whelan {Hollister u/s}. This is Miles's first production with Yeti. He has previously performed in Midsummer Night's Dream and Twelfth Night with Childsplay. He has also been in multiple Childsplay Conservatory productions. His other performances include Frozen Jr and Treasure Island. Miles is in 7th grade at Sunrise Middle School where he is a member of the Sunrise Players theatre production group. When he isn't performing in theatre he plays the cello with the Phoenix Youth Symphony String Orchestra and enjoys playing piano and hockey.



Fern White {Role} is in eleventh grade at Tempe Preparatory Academy. They have been spending their summers at Childsplay since they were four years old. Since then, they have acted in many Childsplay summer camps, school productions, and other plays and musicals, including four years of Childsplay conservatory. Fern has played Mrs. Andrew in Marry Poppins (Childsplay), the Narrator/father in This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing (YETi), Suzette and Phil in Almost, Maine (YETi), Naphtali/the baker in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Tempe Preparatory Academy) among others. This is their second season with YETi



Finn Wisdom {Role} has worked with YETi/Childsplay for about a year, and this will be his third full YETi production. Finn has previously been in Almost, Maine, playing East and Steve, Puffs playing Oliver Rivers, and now The Plot, Like Gravy, Thickens playing Tony Blackwell, all with YETi. Finn has also been apart of tech crews in school shows, including HONK! Jr at Kyrene Middle School and Almost, Maine at Corona Del Sol High School. Finn in his sophomore year apart of the Corona Del Sol theatre club, Theatreworks, and apart of the Corona Del Sol choir. Finn is very excited to be apart of his third season of YETi as an actor and now ensemble member.

Check out our Spring Semester!



Young Playwrights Festival

This festival is not just for young playwrights, but also for child and adult actors!

We are accepting applications for students in 6th - 12th grade to attend a free playwriting workshop where they will write a 10 minute play that YETi will produce. Then in February we will hold auditions where people from the public can participate as actors. The shows will be directed by teen YETi ensemble members.

One of the plays will be submitted to a national competition (we've had two winners over the years!)

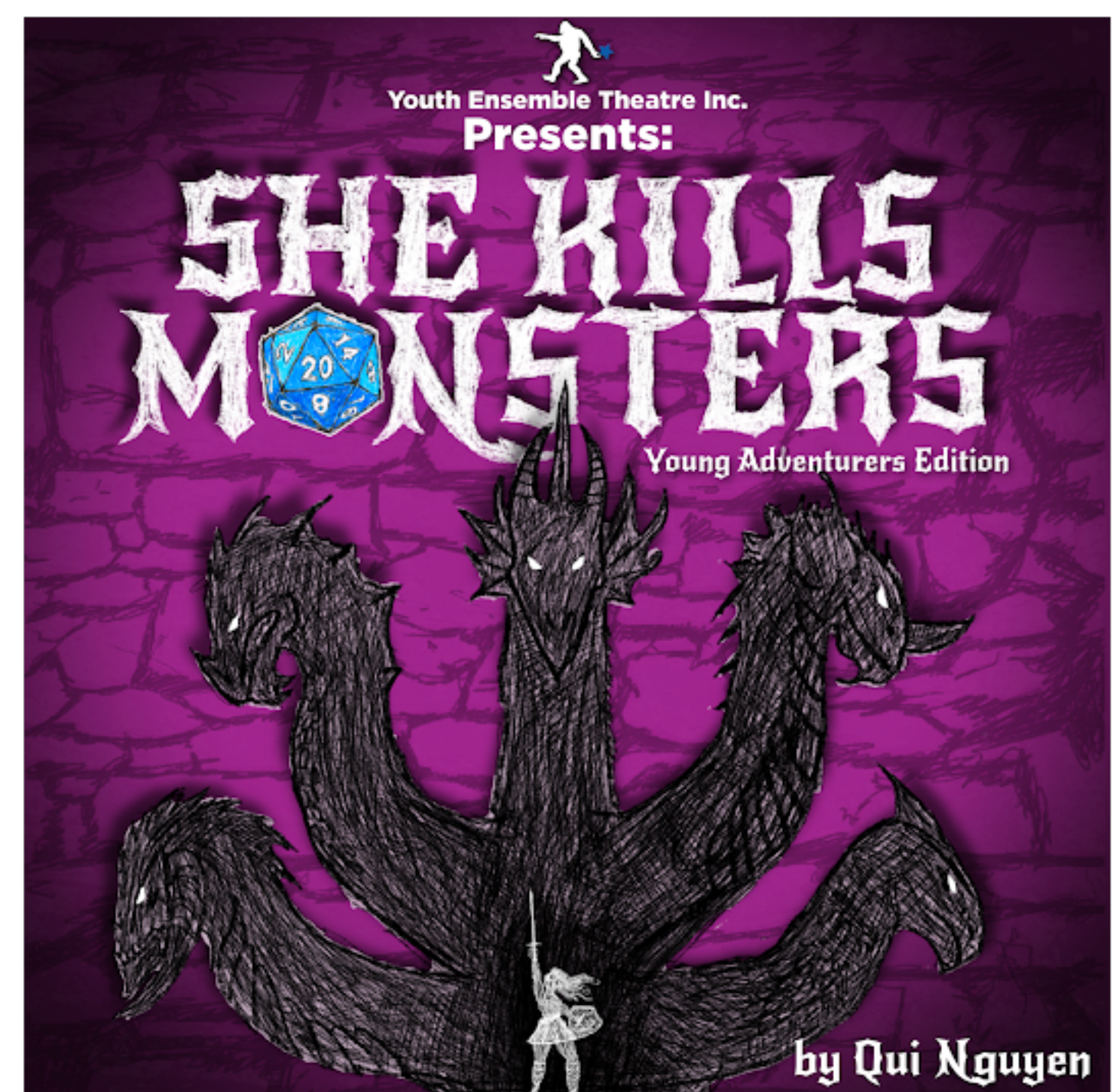
visit: childsplayaz.org/ypf-24

Mainstage Production

Our next mainstage production will be She Kills Monsters that will perform at the Tempe Center for the Arts in June.

Auditions: Will be in mid-spring
follow us on instagram to stay up to date!!

visit: childsplayaz.org/shekills



Apply to Join the ensemble!

Are you a teen who LOVES theatre? Apply to join our teen ensemble. Participants learn to produce theatre from selecting shows, to learning to market and fundraise. Ensemble members participate in a weekly meeting where they work out the logistics. They get guaranteed casting in all of the shows and first pick on which production areas they want to work in (costuming, set, lighting etc.). Spend a semester working with theatre professionals and build your resume!

visit: childsplayaz.org/yeti



Thanks for coming!!

childsplayaz.org/yeti

**Follow us on Instagram:
@yetincorporated**

A HUGE thank you to YETi's ensemble for all of their hard work this year. Producing theatre is a huge challenge and you all did an amazing job. Thank you for the countless hours spent planning, advertising, building, and raising funds to make this show happen!

YETi Artistic Director



JASON WHITE

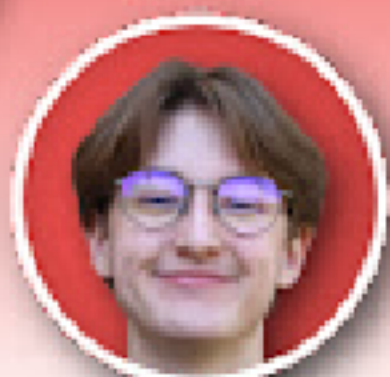
**YETi Ensemble
Season 8**



BELLA



ELLA



FINN



KENLEIGH



JOSH



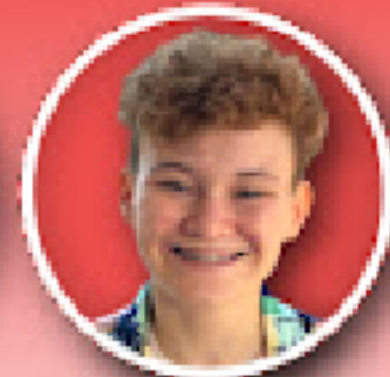
KINLEY



MORGAN



MYA



NJ



PALMER