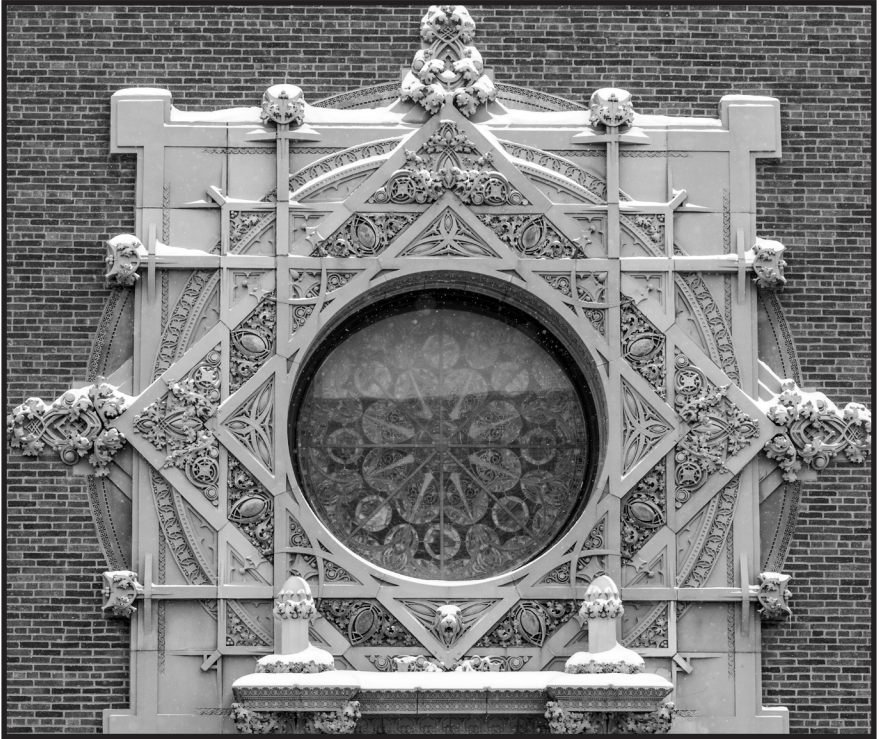


DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS

# *Balancing Acts*

Directed by Lesley Delmenico



*A Community Conversation in Progress  
about Life and Work in Grinnell*

Thursday-Saturday, March 5-8, 2014 7:30pm

Sunday, March 9, 2014 2:00pm

Flanagan Theatre

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GRINNELL COLLEGE



Please turn off all cell phones and pagers.  
No photography permitted.



# *Balancing Acts*

**Directed by  
Lesley Delmenico**

*A Community Conversation in Progress about Life  
and Work in Grinnell*

Costume Designer	Erin Howell-Gritsch
Stage Manager	Deborah Tillman '14
Lighting Designer	Carolyn Voss '07
Sound Designer	Kate Loftur-Thun '14
Technical Director	Erik Sanning '89
Set Designer	Melania Lancy
Photographer	John Brady '16

## CHARACTER LIST

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Joss, Professor..... Rachael Andrew

Emily, Domestic Worker ..... Bridget O'Malley  
Jane, Non-Profit CEO

Chris, Laundry Worker..... Sarah Trop  
Hank, Ex-Coffee Shop Owner

Jade, Factory Worker ..... Sandy Barnard  
Annie, Nail Tech

Suzie, College Administrator..... Scout Slava-Ross

Mary, Artistic Director ..... Mollie Jo Blahunka  
Aziza, Restaurant Owner  
Rachel's Professor

Lisa, Home Schooler ..... Halley Freger  
Brooke, Bartender

Liz, Doctor .....Janet Carl

Daphne, Ex-Sripper ..... Lizzie Eason

Karla, Professor..... Stella Gatzke  
Linda, City Council

Rachel, Teacher .....Michelle Risacher  
Sofia, Waitstaff

## CHARACTER LIST

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Alison, Hospice Nurse..... Paulina Campbell  
Frances, Chaplain

Jennifer, Counselor .....Youngbin Song  
Susan, Big Box Store Cashier

Cyrus, Ex-Factory Worker ..... Joan Baker

Zeke, Writer ..... Betty Moffett

Judd, Firefighter ..... Mike McKenna  
Randy, Farmer

Elijah, Pastor..... Cedric Hakeem

Ronnie, Hospital Kitchen Worker .....Fintan Mason  
Steven, President of Board

Will, Music Teacher..... Will Crosby

Ethan, Young Artist..... Luke Saunders  
Paul, Surgeon

Margaret, Hospital Administrator..... Alex Ullberg  
Reilly, Retired Banker

## DIRECTOR NOTES

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*Balancing Acts* is a work-in-progress developed from a summer 2013 Mentored Advanced Project, co-taught by Lesley Delmenico and Doug Caulkins, on the subject of post-financial crisis work in Grinnell. The first student-written ethnographic mainstage production at the college, it follows in the line of Studs Terkel's 1974 oral history, *Working*.

In creating this play, students conducted over seventy interviews with Grinnell residents generously telling their work stories and giving permission for their use in performance. Students drew verbatim texts from the interviews to script issue-based scenes, changing names, combining speakers, and interweaving short snippets from longer conversations. In this community-based production, we are fortunate to have actors who represent the student and wider Grinnell communities.

*Balancing Acts* participates in a multi-institutional national conversation about money, work, hopes, and dreams in contemporary America, in which Grinnell represents small towns and the heartland. Called the "Too-Big Project"—as in "too big to fail"—its directors have been engaged in conversation about their local projects since summer 2012. (Other institutions are Drew University in New Jersey, Wayne State in Detroit, and the University of San Francisco.) As we continue this collaborative discussion of work and finance at Grinnell College, the set as well as themes of *Balancing Acts* will be shared by both this production and Celeste Miller's dance performance, *Outfoxing the Wolf*.

We hope that you will enjoy hearing the voices of people who are your neighbors, and that *Balancing Acts* helps foster a continued conversation about living and working in this place.



**Rachael Andrew '16** is an intended Theatre and Dance major from Platteville, Wisconsin. She worked as stage manager for the main stage productions *Small Elephant Stories*, *The Pitmen Painters*, and *Wit*. She also worked as assistant director on *Waiting for Godot* last year, and ran the light board for this fall's dance show. She is pleased to be making her onstage debut.

**Joan Baker** is a '51 graduate from Grinnell College, now retired from the Eastman Kodak Company and living at Mayflower Community. She has little (read NO) theater experience but is excited about learning from working on *Balancing Acts*.

**Sandy Barnard '17** is a prospective Theatre and Dance major and Linguistics concentrator. *Balancing Acts* is her second show at Grinnell; she was previously in *Wit*. She was also involved in theater in high school, and performed in an independent film production last summer.

**Mollie Jo Blahunka '17** is an intended English and Education major. She was most recently seen in Grinnell's fall production of *Wit* and One Act Festival.

**Paulina Campbell '16** is an intended Theatre and Dance and Spanish double major. She is also a member of the cross country and track teams. While she works in the costume shop and was on crew for a dance show last fall, this is her first time performing at Grinnell.

**Janet Carl** is Director of Academic Support for Writing and Speaking at the College. She has performed in several community theatre productions, the latest being *Trifles* in 2012.

**Will Crosby** has been in almost thirty Grinnell Community Theater productions including one with Ellen Mease and several with Sandy Moffett. He works half time as a library assistant at Drake Community Library and he hangs out at Saints Rest a bunch!

## CAST

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**Lizzie Eason '17** is a potential Mathematics and Theatre and Dance double major. This is Lizzie's first main-stage production at Grinnell. However, last semester she made her Grinnell theatrical debut as 'Beer Girl' in Jarrett Thompson's one-act production of *Beer Girl*. She has also been in over twenty other theatrical productions outside of Grinnell.

**Halley Freger '17** is in her third performance at Grinnell. Last semester she was in *Wit* and the one act festival. She is so excited to be a part of this show!

**Stella Gatzke '17** is an intended English major from Harper Woods, Michigan. This is her second production at Grinnell, after being an assistant director for *Hamlet* last semester.

**Cedric Hakeem '15** is an English major born and raised on the south side of Chicago. He plays football and has been in two productions at Grinnell prior to this one, *Broken Mirrors* and *When the Elephant Comes Crashing through the Roof*. Cedric loves theater, hence his strong participation in Grinnell's theater department, but he aspires to go to law school and become a successful lawyer.

**Fintan Mason '17** is from Brooklyn, NY. He is on the cross-country and track teams and is using his role in *Balancing Acts* to bridge the gap between acting in YouTube videos to acting on stage.

**Mike McKenna** is a Grinnell resident who has been involved in a number of shows including *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *The Odd Couple*, and *Run for your Wife*.

**Betty Moffett** has lived in Grinnell for a generous four decades. During that time, she's had the good fortune to teach in the Writing Lab and sing with the Too Many Strings Band. She's glad that this community is being celebrated (mostly) in *Balancing Acts*.



**Bridget O'Malley '17** is from Corvallis, Oregon. *Balancing Acts* will be her first production at Grinnell. Her previous acting experiences include *Blackbird* with Willamette Stage Company, *Stuart Little*, *The Tempest*, and *Twelfth Night* with the Majestic Theatre (Corvallis), and as well as assorted middle and high school productions.

**Michelle Risacher '17** is from North Vernon, Indiana. This is her second production at Grinnell College. She has previously acted in *Wit* and is a part of the on-campus improvisational troupe *Ritalin Test Squad*. Michelle is excited to be a part of this production and hopes to continue to participate in the Theatre and Dance Department.

**Luke Saunders** graduated from Grinnell in 2012 and now works in the Office of Communications at the College. During his time as a student he performed in *As You Like It*, *Broken Mirrors*, and *Sunday in the Park with George*. After graduating, he acted at the Lamb Arts Regional Theatre in Sioux City in such shows as *The Pillowman* and *Les Miserables*.

**Scout Slava-Ross '17** has participated in high school theater, the Young Shakespeare Players of Madison, WI, and last semester performed in *Hamlet* here at Grinnell.

**Youngbin Song '17** is an independent major studying all kinds of things. She only recently got involved with theatre at Grinnell, but has always loved to play.

**Sarah Trop '17** is undecided about her major. *Balancing Acts* is Sarah's first production at Grinnell, although she's been a part of many productions in her hometown. Some of her favorites include: *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Anything Goes*.

**Alex Ullberg '17** *Balancing Acts* is Alex's first Grinnell production.

## PRODUCTION TEAM

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**Deborah Tillman '14** (Stage Manager) is a Theatre and Dance and History major from Jackson, MS. She is the Production Stage Manager for the Theatre and Dance department. Her Grinnell shows include *Rimers of Eldritch*, *One Act Festival*, and *Balancing Acts*.

**Amanda Kettell '17** (Assistant Stage Manager) is an intended Theatre and Dance major from Clifton Park, New York. This is her second production at Grinnell; she was also Assistant Stage Manager for *Hamlet* in the fall.

**Kate Whitman '14** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Theatre and Dance and English double major. During her time at Grinnell she has twice acted in and twice directed the Neverland Players and is a current director of The Neverland Junior Players. She has also played the role of Gertrude in Ellen Mease's *Hamlet* last fall, directed the one act *Light* in fall 2012, performed in Craig Quintero's show *Naked* in fall 2011, and acted in the open space show *Tape* in spring 2012. She has been a member of the Theatre and Dance SEPC since fall 2012 and serves as the Assistant to the Chair for the department.

**Erik Sanning '89** (Technical Director and Engineering) is a graduate of Grinnell College. He spent the first two years after graduation working as the Technical Director/Lighting Designer for Ballet Iowa. In the summer of '91, Erik was able to return to Grinnell as the Technical Director. In addition, he is also one of the founding members of Grinnell Productions, a semi-professional theatre company that was based here in Grinnell. Erik has also been a member of IATSE, the professional stagehands union, since 1990.



**Alex Bazis '14** (Sound Board Operator) is a Theatre and Dance major from Boone, Iowa.

**Heather LaVonne Guy '14** (Projections Operator) is a Theatre and Dance major and has been in the entertainment business for years. In 2011, she worked as an Associate Producer for one of Chicago's television companies, Flair TV Inc. She has also choreographed for and performed in dance showcases at both Grinnell & Spelman College and worked stage crew for *Sunday in the Park with George* at Grinnell and wardrobe design crew for Spelman's main stage production of *Real Women Have Curves*. She directed *The Unwanted* by Walter Wykes in the 2013 One-Act Festival.

**Molly Kraus-Steinmetz '17** (Light Board Operator) is a potential GWSS major. She's been doing theater since her sophomore year of high school and this will be her third show running the light board for the Grinnell Theatre and Dance department.

## DESIGNERS

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**Rachael Andrew '16** (Projections Designer) is an intended Theatre and Dance major from Platteville, Wisconsin. She worked as stage manager for the main stage productions *Small Elephant Stories*, *The Pitmen Painters*, and *Wit*. She also worked as assistant director on *Waiting for Godot* last year, and ran the light board for this fall's dance show. She is pleased to be making her onstage debut.

**John Brady '16** (Photographer) is a Computer Science and Math double major. He is the TC Coordinator for the AV Center, the Photo Editor for the *Scarlet & Black*, part of the scene shop staff in the Theatre and Dance Department, and is a staff photographer for the Athletic Department. Shows that he has been involved in at Grinnell include *Pitmen Painters*. He also helped build the sets for *Wit* and *Hamlet*.

## DESIGNERS

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**Erin Howell-Gritsch** (Costume Designer) has designed costumes for over 100 productions, beginning with the Des Moines Ballet in 1989. She has designed costumes at Grinnell College since 1999, where she is the resident costume designer, and has taught Introduction to Technical Theatre and Costume Design. She has also taught at Cornell College, where she designed productions of *Polaroid Stories*, *Story Theatre*, *Tartuffe* and *Our Town*. Erin's work has also been produced at the University of Iowa (Theatre, Dance, Playwright's Festival, and Black Action Theatre), Riverside Theatre, RT Shakespeare Festival, and RT Young People's Company, Graffiti Theatre, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and Hurley Dancers. Erin holds a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Design from the University of Iowa and a Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University.

**Melania Lancy** (Set Designer) is delighted to be working with the amazing Theatre and Dance department at Grinnell College for the third year. She is proud to be the College Counselor at the Chicago Academy for the Arts for the past ten years. In addition to working in education, Melania is also an accomplished designer for various theaters and museums. She has been the resident scenic designer for her Chicago-based theater company, Signal Ensemble Theatre, since 2004 where she has designed almost every one of their sets. Over the years, Melania's work has been honored by: *the 2007 Jeff Nomination for Best Scenic Design*, *the 2008 Jeff Award for Outstanding Musical Production*, and *the 2009 Equity Jeff Nomination for Best Scenic Design in a mid-size theatre*. She has designed for numerous other schools and theaters throughout the Chicago area. In addition to designing for the stage, Melania has been commissioned to create commercial sculptures for the John G. Shedd Aquarium, the Brookfield Zoo, Sea World of Texas, and the Museum of Science and Industry. Visit her at: [www.melanielancy.com](http://www.melanielancy.com).



**Kate Loftur-Thun '14** (Sound Designer) is having lots of fun working with the Theatre and Dance Department in her last semester here at Grinnell. She recently appeared in *Wit* as Vivian Bearing; past credits include *Sunday in the Park with George* (Yvette/Naomi), *Broken Mirrors* (Ensemble / Asst. Sound Designer), and *The Rimers of Eldritch* (Evelyn Jackson). She also directed *Waterbabies*, and co-directed *Columbus & Isabella*, and is currently writing a play for her MAP.

**Carolyn Voss '07** (Lighting Designer) is pleased to return to Grinnell College having previously lit *Hamlet* on the Roberts stage in the fall. Grinnell Theatre and Dance alumna, Carolyn received her MFA at Ohio University. She is now a freelance lighting and scenic designer in the greater Chicago area. Some favorite recent credits include *Through the Leaves* and *Request Concert* (The Side Project), *Assassins* and *The Idiot* (Ohio University), and *In The Heights* (Stagedoor Manor). Visit her at [carolynvossdesign.com](http://carolynvossdesign.com)

## PRODUCTION STAFF

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Assistant Stage Manager	Amanda Kettell '17 Kate Whitman '14
Light Board Operator	Molly Kraus-Steinmetz '17
Sound Board Operator	Alex Bazis '14
Projections Operator	Heather Guy '14
Wardrobe Team	Hanna Storch '16 Antoinette Cudney '16 Dana Sly '15
Poster Design	Joyce Bergan
Program Layout	Stephanie Micetich
MAP Student writers	Grace Tipps '14 Anna Banker '15 Louisa Silverman '15 Caitlin Beckwith-Ferguson '14 Tye Smith '15 Kate Whitman '14

## SPECIAL THANKS

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Grinnell Fire Department, Doug Caulkins, Celeste Miller, Janet Carl, Susan Sanning and the Grinnell residents who so generously gave their time and stories.



**ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Production Stage Manager</b>	Deborah Tillman '14
<b>Assistant Production Stage Manager</b>	Rachel Andrew '16
<b>Assistant to the Chair</b>	Kate Whitman '14
<b>Archivist</b>	Benjamin Zeledon '14

**FRONT OF HOUSE**

<b>Front of House Manager</b>	Lorraine Blatt '14	
<b>Front of House Staff</b>	Teddy Hoffman '14	Deborah Tillman '14
	Deshaun Peters '14	Lorraine Blatt '14
	Quinninta Bellows '15	Mackenzie Higgins '15
	Madeliene Hardt '16	Jack Blais '16
	Joe Kloehn '14	

**COSTUME STUDIO**

<b>Costume Storage Coordinator</b>	Devon Gamble '15	
<b>Stitchers</b>	Kate Loftur-Thun '14	Dana Sly '15
	Mira Hall '16	Sophie Neems '16
	Daniel Nanetti-Palacios '16	Paulina Campbell '16
	Antoinette Cudney '16	Hannah Storch '16

**SCENE SHOP**

<b>Properties Storage Coordinator</b>	Ian Saderholm '14	
<b>Assistant Properties Coordinator</b>	Daniel Nanetti-Palacios '16	
<b>Scene Shop Staff</b>	Alex Hsieh '14	Colin Wong '14
	Ben Doehr '15	Caleb Sponheim '15
	Zoe Wolter '16	Rachel Andrew '16
	John Brady '16	Olivia Queathem
		Tess Given '15



**Outfoxing the Wolf**

choreographed by Celeste Miller

Flanagan Theatre

April 24-26 - 7:30 PM

April 27 - 2 PM