The Wolves
by Sarah DeLappe

Fierce. Fearless. Female.

September 18-19, 24-26 | 7:30 p.m.
Black Box Theatre | Stephens Performing Arts Center

ISU Box Office
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The Afterglow Wolves

Come for the Show, Stay for the Afterglow!

September 18 | After the Show
Black Box Theater | Stephens Performing Arts Center
About the Show

This play centers on the experiences of high school girls through their weekly Saturday morning pre-game soccer warmups.

SARAH DELAPPE, playwright

The Wolves (Pulitzer Prize finalist; Relentless award; Lortel, Outer Critics Circle nominations; Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist; Yale Drama Series Prize finalist) premiered Off-Broadway at The Playwrights Realm, following an engagement with New York Stage and Film, and development with Clubbed Thumb. Delappe is currently an LCT3 Writer in Residence and a member of Ars Nova Play Group. She earned an MFA from Brooklyn College. Other fellowships and developmental support include The MacDowell Colony, The Group Floor, Page One Fellowship at The Playwrights Realm, SPACE on Ryder Farm, and Sitka Fellows Program.
“I wrote this play in a sports bra. I am not an athlete in my current life, and hadn’t worn one since high school. I would take off my shirt, take off my bra, pull the sports bra over my chest, and sit down to write. I overshare not to advocate for method writing (although....) but to suggest just what sort of play this play was from the start. Physical. Concerned with the body, with women’s bodies, not as eye candy or symbolic vessels but as muscular, dexterous, capable, contradictory, and fallible individuals.

Welcome to a planet of teenage girls.

The biographical fallacy hounds writers, particularly writers who happen to identify as female. Many assume that she must be writing from her own life or how else did she think of the darn thing? I did not play soccer in high school. I was a teenage girl, I knew other teenage girls, I still do. These characters are not downloaded from my yearbook. The play is not really about soccer.

So why soccer?

AstroTurf and American exceptionalism. It’s essential that these girls are playing indoor soccer, deep in the suburbs, in a massive structure engineered to allow them to pursue this leisure activity in short sleeves in the dead of winter. The world’s sport has been siloed to an Air Dome in a suburb. Their team is undefeated. These American teenagers exist, quite literally, in a bubble. At that particular age when the stakes of everyday life could not be higher, they are desperate to understand themselves and the world around them, but they can only see so far.

I thought of the play like a war movie. Instead of a troop of young men preparing for battle, we watch a team of young women warming up for their soccer game. There’s a captain, a rebel, an innocent, a recent recruit, a common enemy. The arc follows an escalation of blood and viscera both in the content of their speech and the actual sustained injuries and traumas. Of course, their battlefield is a carpet of artificial grass.

And yet, on their artificial grass, these girls are allowed to define themselves amongst themselves. Their bodies are their own and they are strong. We do not meet them as the property or accessory of a man—a boyfriend, a father, and institutional custodian in school or in government—we meet them with each other. We’re on their turf. They’re not on ours.”

-Sarah DeLappe
January, 2018
Cast

#11.............................................................................................................. Elaine Bell*
#25.............................................................................................................. Hope Fitzgerald*
#13 .............................................................................................................. Courtney Lyman
#46.............................................................................................................. Teegan Schriock*
#2 .............................................................................................................. Abbey Moe*
#7 .............................................................................................................. Jo Simper*
#14 .............................................................................................................. Tapaynga Hill*
#8 .............................................................................................................. Morgan Loos*
#00.............................................................................................................. Katie Ware*
Soccer Mom.................................................................................................. Kylie Widdison*

*Member or Pledge of APO

Scenes

Scene 1
Week One - The Cambodian

Scene 2
Week Two - Todos Los Ninos

Scene 3
Week Three - MLK Jr. Day

Scene 4
Week Four - The Cambodian II

Scene 5
Timeout

Scene 6
Week Six - We Are The Wolves

Run time, 1:40
No intermission.
Strobe light warning.
Artistic Staff

Director (Faculty) ......................................................... Vanessa Ballam
Assistant Director ..........................................................Stephanie Lathrop***
Fight Choreographer/Vocal Coach (Faculty) ............ Stefan Espinosa
Costume Designer .............................................................. Austin Baum
Lighting Designer .............................................................. Bryan Zipp
Sound Designer ............................................................. Matthew Wagner
Props Designer ............................................................... Katie Ware
Assistant Props Designer ................................................ Tapaynga Hill*
Scenic Designer (Faculty) ............................................. Paul Yeates
Technical Director (Faculty) ....................................... Chad Gross
Stage Manager .............................................................. Harmoni Thompson*
Master Electrician ......................................................... Matthew Wagner*
Costume Shop Manager (Faculty) ..................... Ananda Keator
Shop Foreman (Faculty) ................................................ Chad Gross
Assistant Master Electrician ........................................ Hope Fitzgerald*

Run Crew

Sound Board Operator ................................................ Matthew Wagner*
Light Board Operator ................................................ Rachel Guerra
Assistant Stage Managers .......................................... Devon Burningham*, Jake Ryan Walsh*
Dressers ........................................................................ Emma Pierson, Bailey Oliver
Electricians ......................... Hope Fitzgerald*, Emmaline Morris*, Matthew Wagner*, Bryan Zipp


*Member or Pledge of APO
**Graduate Student
We would like to recognizing Salt Lake Acting Company for their donation of the astroturf.

The Communication, Media, and Persuasion department for their support of the livestream.

DICK’s Sporting Goods for a discount on the soccer equipment.

Bill Stanton for his assistance in installing our new cameras

A final big thank you to Head Coach Debs Brereton, Sam Etherington and the ISU Women’s Soccer Team.

Thank you!
Student Bios

**Katie Ware** (#00/Props Master) from Meridian, Idaho, is in her 3rd year as an undergraduate student at ISU and is thrilled to be a part of this fantastic show. Katie has also recently been seen as May in *Last Train to Nibroc* and Woman 1 Understudy in *First Date the Musical*. She would like to thank her parents for their love and support in everything she does.

**Abbey Moe** (#2) from Rigby, Idaho, is in her third year of her undergraduate degree at ISU and is very excited to perform in *The Wolves*. She has loved the collaborative and unique process this show has been. Abbey has also performed in *Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse* at ISU. She would like to work in Christian film after graduation and would like to thank her family and friends for their encouragement and support.

**Jo Simper** (#7) from Kuna, Idaho, is in her sophomore year at ISU where she is pursuing her BA in theatre. Jo is very excited to be doing *The Wolves* as her first show at ISU and to be working with such a phenomenal cast. She looks forward to participating in more shows during her time here. Jo has had a great time working on her soccer skills throughout the process, and would like to dedicate her performance to her recently passed friend, Hailey King, an excellent soccer player, loved by all.

**Morgan Loos** (#8) from Blackfoot, Idaho is in her 3rd year of her undergraduate degree at ISU. She is ecstatic to be working on such a fun and thought provoking show with such incredible women. This is the first main stage production she has performed in at ISU. She assistant directed *Shakespeare in Love* and was tech for *Macbeth*. She wants to thank her family, especially her mother, her friends and her wonderful professors for their unwavering love and support.

**Elaine Bell** (#11) from Boise, Idaho, is in her 2nd year of her undergraduate theatre degree at ISU, and is grateful to be a part of such a powerful and supportive all female cast. Some of her favorite roles include, Gertrude in *Seussical the Musical*, Betty/Grace understudy in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical* and Cora in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Elaine wants to thank her family, and all of the empowering women in her life.
Tapaynga Hill (#14) from Pavillion, Wyoming, is in her final year of her undergraduate here at ISU, and is beyond excited to be working on this wonderful show with an amazing cast. Some of Tapaynga's favorite roles have been Snoopy in You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, as well as several roles in ISU's Shakespeare in Love and Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse. She is super grateful to her family and friends for giving her the support to pursue her goals.

Teegan Schriock (#46) from Idaho Falls, Idaho, is ecstatic to be combining two of her favorite things; soccer and theatre. Schriock is a theatre major and senior at ISU who began her passion for both soccer and theatre at a very young age. She never thought she would have the opportunity to combine the two passions and would like to give a huge thanks to her valorous director, cast and crew for all of their hard work and dedication to make this show possible. Schriock may also look familiar from her role as Lilly in Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse and Thing 2 from The Cat and the Hat produced at ISU.

Courtney Lyman (13) is from the small town of Declo, Idaho. She has been working toward a degree in theater, film, and video, and is excited to be a part of The Wolves. She has previously acted in the production of Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse as Rachel here at ISU. She also did theatre all throughout high school. As a closing statement, she just wants to say "HI, MOM!"

Hope Fitzgerald (#25) from Jerome, Idaho, is in her 2nd year of her undergraduate degree at ISU and is so pumped to finally be able to bring this show to life for you all after almost seven months. Hope has been seen as Abigail in The Crucible, Mrs. Peterson in Bye Bye Birdie, The Cowardly Lion in The Wizard of Oz, is Assistant Master Electrician for The Wolves and will be playing the role of Puck in ISU's upcoming production of Midsummer Night's Dream. She is absolutely delighted to be making her ISU debut as #25, and is super grateful for all of these opportunities to work on and back stage with so many insanely talented people! Enjoy the show!
**Kylie Widdison** (Soccer Mom) is from Idaho Falls, Idaho. Kylie is in her 4th year of her undergraduate degree at ISU and is honored to be a part of this all female empowering cast. Kylie has also been seen as Connie in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical* and is currently a part of the cast of *Apollo: to the Moon* for ISU’s educational touring show. Kylie wants to thank her number one fans, her family, for their support and love.

**Emily Lucio** (Understudy/Swing for #14, #11, and #8) was born and raised here in Pocatello, Idaho and began working on *The Wolves* in her freshman year at ISU. She is happy to be continuing the project into her sophomore year and has loved working with the women’s soccer team. She has also done past shows as *Daisy from Daddy’s Girl, Filomena in April Fish* and *Veda from Dearly Departed*. She is very grateful for those who taught her and for her family’s support.

**Emmaline Morris** (Swing for #25, #13, #2 and Soccer mom ) from Farmington Utah has been thrilled to join *The Wolves* in the last quarter! Due to Mrs. Corona, Emmaline subbed into the cast playing defense, midfield and moral support. Emmaline has also been seen as Grace in *Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical*, and Margo in *Bright Star* (May it Rest In Peace.) Emmaline especially wants to thank the cast and crew of *The Wolves* for their fast acceptance and support onto *The Wolves* team.

**Allysia Peine** (Swing for #46, #07, #00) from Spanish Fork, Utah is thrilled to start her Freshman year as a part of this wonderful cast of strong independent women. Allysia joined the cast this semester and has loved the challenge and experience. Some of her favorite roles have included Kate Keller in *Miracle Worker*, Katherine Plumber in *Newsies*, and Hedy LaRue in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. She wants to thank her family and friends for their love and support; and the director Vanessa Ballam for trusting her to be apart of such a beautiful show.
Matthew Wagner (Sound Designer) from Meridian, ID is in his Senior Year of his undergraduate degree and sound designing his first main stage show here at ISU. Other designs at ISU include APO’s, Bus Stop Scenic design with Nick Taylor and APO’s Macbeth Lighting design. He wants to thank Chad Gross and Paul Yeates for his technical knowledge and opportunities which helped him get to where he is today.

Bryan Zipp (Lighting Design) from Carthage, New York, is in his final year of his undergraduate degree at ISU and is thrilled to be working on his first lighting design here. Before coming to ISU Bryan was going to college in Kalispell, Montana, and worked as a Designer and Actor for many shows for FVCC. He wants to thank Joe Legate and Rich Haptonstall for helping him to get here and his lovely wife, Alyssa, for her constant support.

Austin Baum (Costume Design) from Spanish Fork, Utah, is a senior at Idaho State University and is honored to be able to do the costume design for such an amazing team. Austin wants to express his thanks to everyone who came out to support the arts during such difficult and confusing times. He also wants to express his appreciation to his family and his brother serving a Mission in Everett, Washington.

Harmoni Thompson (Stage Manager) from Meridian, Idaho, is in her 3rd year at ISU, and is so excited to be stage managing her first production! Her favorite projects so far have been working as Catling in Shakespeare in Love, and Ross in Macbeth, the Scottish Play. She wants to thank her friends and family for their constant love and support.

Devon Burningham (Assistant Stage Manager) from Layton Utah is going into his third year at ISU and is excited for his first ASM opportunity. Devon was last seen on the stage at Yellowstone Playhouse in Island Park as a variety of different characters for the Summer 2020 season. He would like to thank his parents for always showing loving support for his dream.
Jake Ryan Walsh (Assistant Stage Manager) is a 2nd year undergraduate from Pocatello, Idaho who is helping as an assistant stage manager for The Wolves. Jake was also seen in last year’s The Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical and is excited to try out for more productions in the future.

Stephanie Lathrop (Assistant Director) from Basalt, Idaho, is a second year graduate student. She is grateful for her opportunity to work as both an assistant director and assistant designer for The Wolves. She was recently seen in Bright star as an ensemble member and Mama understudy. She wants to thank her husband and family for being so supportive.
Vanessa Ballam has been performing professionally and teaching theatre around the country for the past twenty years. Vanessa currently serves as an Associate Professor, and Head of Acting in the Department of Theatre and Dance at Idaho State University and is the Education Director for Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre. She also serves as the Director of Membership for StateraArts, a nonprofit organization working towards gender parity in the arts, and as a Vice Chair for The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival- Region VII. Vanessa has performed with companies around the country such as Theatre Under the Stars, PCPA Theatrefest, The Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pennsylvania Shakespeare, Anchorage Opera, Music Theatre West, Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre and Lyric Repertory Company.

Vanessa spent three years as a Resident Actor at the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, CA where she oversaw the first year acting program. She also served as a visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre at Utah State University. Vanessa is the founding director of the annual Utah High School Musical Theatre Awards, the Utah affiliate for the NHSMTA- Jimmy Awards, and the Utah Festival Conservatory of the Performing Arts. A former Miss Utah, Vanessa was honored with the Bert Parks talent award at the Miss America Pageant. Vanessa is married to Actor Stefan Espinosa and together they have two miraculous children. She is a proud member of Actor’s Equity and received her M.F.A in Acting from Indiana University, and her B.A. and B.F.A from Utah State University.
I am not a soccer expert.

This is a play about identity and identity formation specifically within a group of sixteen and seventeen-year-old women. Forging self-identity while simultaneously claiming identity within a pack.

This is also a play about loss of innocence. The events of the play chart five weeks in the life of an elite indoor girls’ soccer team. There is a bond that occurs between these women that is unique and eternal.

This is an ensemble piece. Through our process of creation, we had the opportunity to train with Head Coach Debs Brereton and the ISU women’s soccer team. We sweat together, we struggled together and we did our best to take good care of each other.

It has been an honor to learn from this group of beautiful humans.

- Vanessa
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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in-college level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
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