



Youth Theatre Northwest presents

She Kills Monsters

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by: **Erin Murray**

A YTN Annex Production

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

She Kills Monsters has been a nationwide fringe theatre cult favorite since it premiered in a tiny, gritty New York theatre called The Flea in 2011. The script has everything a young performer would love: elaborate stage combat, colorful characters, killer one-liners, and iconic music that reverberates in the marrow of your bones. It has been a true honor to direct *She Kills Monsters* for YTN's 2022 Annex season. I have had the pleasure of observing every single performer as they identified a challenge and overcame it using their voice, determination, comedic timing, and creativity.

Along with the physical challenge of this script, the young ensemble also found the grace to embrace the heart of the script which centers around Tilly's struggle to be her true self in a homophobic world. Though written in 2011, the scenes of homophobia and bullying are all too familiar today. Many of our conversations centered around the language of the show - you will notice quite a few expletives. Each actor was trusted to justify every "adult" phrase in the script or elect to remove it if they felt it did not serve the story. The result is a collective landscape of teenage angst coupled with a brave punkish moxie that brings a raw and real energy to the story. Words build our world which means that words also have the power to destroy them. The mindful and intentional energy brought by this ensemble to the language used both on and off stage has been exemplary.

Much like the *Dungeons and Dragons* game that inspires the story, *She Kills Monsters* asks audiences to examine the world they are building on their own journey. How would the viewer set their own alignment: Lawful? Chaotic? Evil? Neutral? True? Good? Are they retreating into a fantasy world because they fear a better world is possible or are they facing their dragons in order to live out their best self? Tonight, there is no need to reflect too heavily on personal damage, but I do hope this incredible cast succeeds in restoring audiences' spirits as they fall under the spell of *She Kills Monsters*.

Erin Murray

Director

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CAST LIST:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Vera | Abigail G |
| Tilly | Addison A |
| Miles | Ben B |
| Orcus | Christopher B |
| Agnes | Erin G |
| Kaliope/Kelly | Gwen B |
| Evil Tina /Steve | Kate P |
| Chuck | Milo M-M |
| Evil Gabby/Farrah | Nora J |
| Lillith/Lily | Sarah C |
| Narrator | Eliza J |

ACTOR'S BIOS (Alphabetical by first name):

Abigail G (Vera) is 17 years old and a senior at The Center School. She is so excited to be performing in *She Kills Monsters!* Recently, you may have seen her in *Theseus and the Minotaur* and *the Other Six* or *The 39 Steps*. When she's not at YTN, you could find her hanging out with her dogs Buddy and Willow or writing college essays. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Addison A (Tilly) is an incoming freshman who is thrilled to be playing Tilly, in her very first production with YTN. Most recently, she has been in shows such as *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Frozen*, with her school. She would like to thank her parents, for driving her the long way to Merced Island, and supporting her in the show. She would also like to give thanks to the wonderful actors she gets to share the stage with, and the crew. I hope you enjoy the show!

Ben B (Miles) is excited to be part of this production, and has enjoyed many other productions at youth theatre northwest. He is going to be attending east side prep for his freshman year of high school and is 14 year old. Outside of theatre he greatly enjoys such activities as dungeons and dragons, singing, and spending time with friends. He has a lovely family and many fantastic friends and hopes you enjoy the show

Christopher B (Orcus) is a rising senior at Mercer Island High School and is starting to understand the appeal of Dungeons and Dragons. During his free time he enjoys knitting/crocheting things more complex than scarves, MLA formatting Google/Word documents, and listening to elevator music.

Erin G (Agnes), 18, is absolutely overjoyed to be playing Agnes in this incredible show. Her latest theatre credits include *Legally Blonde the Musical*, *The Crimson House Murder*, and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her in all of her artistic endeavors and would like to thank the audience for coming to see this amazing cast of actors.

Gwen B (Kaliope) is 21 and an incoming senior at Western Washington University. She is studying Theatre with a concentration in Performance and hopes to be a professional actress. She is also an alum of Youth Theatre and may have been seen in *Men on Boats* (Powell) and *The Little Mermaid* (Ursula). Gwen would like to thank her family and YTN for all their support. Enjoy the show!

Kate P (Evil Tina/Steve) would like to reassure you that they are alive, despite what you may see in the show. Past credits include five previous shows at YTN, most recently *13* (Cassie) and *Men on Boats* (Frank Goodman), and nine shows at MIHS, including *The Odyssey* (Athena) and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Leaf Coneybear) this year. She hopes you enjoy the show (and can't tell how little she actually knows about D&D)!

Milo M-M (Chuck) is going into his senior year at MIHS. He has been doing theater for nearly his whole life and is so excited to work on this awesome show! You might have seen him recently as the Professor in *39 Steps* or

Theseus in *Theseus and the Minotaur* at YTN, or perhaps as Black Stache in *Peter and the Starcatcher* or Odysseus in *The Odyssey* at MIHS. Milo is an avid cook in his free time, and also loves writing and drawing (and playing the occasional DnD campaign). Enjoy the show!

Nora J (*all pronouns*) (Evil Gabbi/Farah) is 14 years old, this is her 12th show at ytn. Nora is notoriously bad at writing bios but she's pretty cool. Enjoy the show!

Sarah C (Lilith) is 15 years old, and she is in 9th grade at Lakeside School in Seattle. Sarah has done many productions with YTN including *Mary Poppins Jr*, *The Monkey King*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Sky Below*, and *Radio Drama*. She has loved being in *She Kills Monsters* with such a great director and cast! In her free time, Sarah enjoys running track, boxing, baking, and carving wood.

PRODUCTION TEAM:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Director | Erin Murray |
| Set Designer | Robin Macartney |
| Lighting Design | Robin Giese |
| Costume Design | Natasha Gier |
| Props Design | Allie Leslie |
| Sound Design | Trey McGee |
| Stage Manager | Maggie Petersen |
| Fight Director | Philip Smith |
| Choreographer | Mimi Katano |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Sesha Richter |

Student Crew:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Student Stage Manager | Kyra B |
| Lights Op | Felix C |
| Run Crew | Kyra L |

Coming up next at Youth Theatre Northwest:



September 6 – 10

www.youththeatre.org/auditions

PRODUCTION TEAM'S BIOS:

Erin Murray (Director) is proud to return to Youth Theatre Northwest's Annex program. Previous YTN directing credits include Jaclyn Backhaus' *Men On Boats*, and Danielle Mohlman's *Dust* (workshop production), and Diana Grisanti's *...ghost party* (workshop production). Erin is also a teaching artist with YTN and a Show-To-Go Director including *Seussical Jr*, *Shrek Jr.* and *Wonka Jr.* In 2017, Erin started the Kilroys and Coffee program, a contemporary play reading and text analysis class for advanced students focusing on works by women, trans, and non-binary writers on The Kilroys List. This Fall, Erin will direct the world premiere of Bierman/Vranas' musical *Theseus and The Minotaur and the Other Six* at YTN as part of their New Work program. Additional directing credits include Anne Washburn's *The Internationalist* (Steppenwolf Garage), the Chicago premiere of Suzanne Heathcote's *I Saw My Neighbor On the Train and I Didn't Even Smile* (Redtwist), and the Seattle premiere of Annie Baker's *John* (ArtsWest). Education: MFA Theatre Directing, Northwestern University; BA, Trinity College Dublin.

Maggie Petersen (Stage Manager) is overjoyed to be working on *She Kills Monsters!* This is their first time being a stage manager, but they are a YTN alumni who previous was the student stage manager for many shows and was a participant in YTN's improv troupe, Chaos Theory, for 6 years. They will be attending the University of Washington in the fall.

Trey McGee (Sound Design) is a sound designer and performer living in Brooklyn, NY. He is a proud alumnus of YTN. He has sound designed for several Youth Theatre productions in the past few years, including *Men on Boats*, *Rules of Comedy*, and *Flora and Ulysses*. He is always thankful to work with Youth Theatre again and give back to the community that helped him grow. Enjoy the show!

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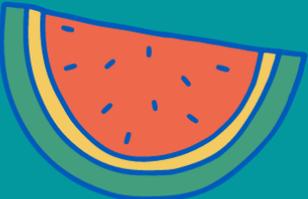
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