



Youth Theatre Northwest presents

THE THING ABOUT UNICORNS

Written by: **KATE SWENSON**

Directed by: **CORY SOUTHWELL**

FROM THE DIRECTOR:

The past couple of years have been hard. Like, really hard. I've spent a lot of time looking inward, exploring outward, and rethinking my ideas of what it means to be a part of a community – from a small chosen family, all the way to the big, jumbo, overwhelming global experience.

Over that time, I've appreciated the tools I gained to better understand and manage my own emotions. I feel I've gained a deeper understanding that everyone has their own, full life below the surface of what others get to see. And most importantly, I've learned to breathe and make space for all the complicated feelings life throws at us.

Those lessons of tolerance and emotional management are truly the core of this play. The characters in this story learn to see life through each other's eyes, accept that their actions ripple through the lives of others, and hold themselves accountable when they make mistakes. And, most importantly, they give a chance for others to grow.

No matter how different we may look on the outside, so many aspects of life bind us together. Like Uvi Unicorn says, the world is full of different kinds of awesome creatures. And they can be friends with whoever they want: horns, scales, big feet, or quills.

Thank you to the cast for trusting in me and putting the 'sass' in 'squatch.' Thank you to the families for all the chauffeuring, practicing lines, and emotional support. Thank you to the crew for being absolute rockstars. Thank you to the production team for rising to the challenge of creating the cutest show on record. And thank you to Kate, for always creating such a wonderful world for these young actors to play in.

Enjoy the show!

Cory Southwell

Director, *The Thing About Unicorns*

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CAST LIST (In order of appearance):

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Caticorn | Chloe B |
| Billi Z. Scapegoat | Hazel B |
| Eddy Echidna | Teddy W |
| Sassy Sasquatch/Oddity Member | Viola H |
| Al Chupacabra/ Oddity Member | Kaleo T |
| Uvi Unicorn/Oddity Member | Lucy S |
| Unity Unicorn | Yolanda H |
| Tootsie Sasquatch | Rosie H |
| Cal Chupacabra | Rishaan J |
| Sparkle Sprinkle | Henrietta H |
| Princess Queenie Rainbow Shimmer | Rinessa H |
| Glitter Bomb | Wolfric H |
| Director Hooman | Ollie G |

ACTOR'S BIOS (Alphabetical by first name):



Chloe B (Caticorn) is super hyped to perform for you! She is 8 years old and attending Louisa May Alcott. She loves to sing and dance. Chloe loves her magnificent costume with her favorite colors. She loves the lights and the sound effects. She hopes you enjoy the show! Thanks to Cory, Kate, and Trina for making this happen!

Hazel B (Billi Z. Scapegoat) is 9 years old and is in the 4th grade at Hamlin Robinson School. This is her first show with YTN. When not on stage, Hazel likes to edit movies, run, swim and go on hikes. Thanks for watching the show!



Henrietta (Henri) H (Sparkle Sprinkle) is excited to be making her acting debut in *The Thing About Unicorns* here at Youth Theatre Northwest. As a 1st grader at the French American School of Puget Sound, Henri loves learning new languages, practicing piano and singing with the Seattle Girls Chorus. When she's not at the theatre, you can find her being an awesome big sister, tying knots, climbing trees and building with magnatiles.

Kaleo T (Al Chupacabra) is in 4th grade and has enjoyed being part of Youth Theatre Northwest since Kindergarten! When not on stage you can find him playing Roblox, dancing, reading Harry Potter, and attempting to solve the mysteries of the universe. He hopes you enjoy the show!



“normal” is overrated.

Lucy S (Uvi/Oddity) is thrilled to return to YTN for her third production (and last on the young stage) in the role of Uvi the Unicorn. Offstage, Lucy, 11, is in 5th grade and enjoys anime, manga, her fluffy Ragdoll cat George, and creating art. She would like to thank the cast, crew, volunteers, and you the audience for your support. She hopes you enjoy *The Thing About Unicorns* and remember that being

Ollie G (Director Hooman) is tickled rainbow to return to YTN for Unicorns. Previously he has performed in *The Reluctant Dragon*, *Sidekick Island*, and *Humpty Dumpty*. He appreciates his parents for driving him to rehearsals, his cast mates for being awesome at naming stuffed animals, YTN for making this all possible, and his mom for ghostwriting his bio. Party on, dudes.



She hopes you enjoy the show.

Rinesa H (Princess Queenie Rainbow Shimmer) is very excited to be part of *The Thing About Unicorns* at Youth Theater Northwest under the great direction of Cory Southwell and Trina Wright. This is the first time for Rinesa to be on stage. She is 7 years old and in 2nd grade at Northwood Elementary School. When not at the theater, Rinesa can be found doing martial arts, swimming, and playing tennis. She

Rishaan J (Cal Chupacabra) is delighted to be in *The Thing about Unicorns* at YTN. He's dreamt of acting and this is his very first show. He is 8 years old and in 2nd grade at Northwood Elementary. Rishaan also loves reading, learning new jokes and enjoys making new friends. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Rosie H (Tootsie Sasquatch) is so excited to be in her first acting production! She has loved doing classes and camps at YTN for the past 3 years, as well as dance classes since age 2. Rosie recently turned 6 1/2 and loves reading Winnie the Pooh, dancing, and creating all types of art. Like her character Tootsie, Rosie has a big heart... but not so big feet. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Teddy W (Eddy Echidna) is excited to be making his stage debut at Youth Theatre Northwest. Previous credits include lightboard operator for *Flora and Ulysses* and a chef in his kindergarten class play. He is 10 years old and in 4th Grade at Thurgood Marshall Elementary in Seattle. When not at the theater, Teddy can be found playing soccer, baseball, or chess; reading graphic novels; or organizing his Pokemon cards. He thanks you for coming to see the *Thing About Unicorns*.



Viola H (Sassy Sasquatch) is 9 years old and a fourth grader at Spiritridge Elementary in Bellevue. She's proud of being a part of YTN and always enjoys discovering her new self through acting. This will be Viola's 5th production at YTN. In her free time, she loves drawing, reading, playing the flute, soccer and video games. Viola's biggest passion is animals. She'd like to be a zoologist in the future to help all sorts of animals from small pets to wildlife. She hopes you'll enjoy the show!

Wolfric H (Glitter bomb) is very excited to be a part of *The Thing About Unicorns* this December at Youth Theatre Northwest. This is Wolf's 2nd show at YTN after his debut as Vinci this summer in the *Princess and the Frog!* He is 7 years old and in 2nd Grade at St. Thomas School in Medina. When not at the theatre, Wolf can be found building LEGO, playing soccer, and building houses on Animal Crossing. He hopes you enjoy the show!



Yolanda H (Unity Unicorn) is six years old. She is in first grade at Island Park Elementary School. When not at the theater, Yolanda likes to play basketball, go swimming, ride roller skate, ride bike, read story books, draw pictures and have fun with her kind cute family. She's very excited for 6th grade and to fart rainbows with sparkly horned unicorn. She wants all of you to have fun watching and acting the glitterific show!

PRODUCTION TEAM:

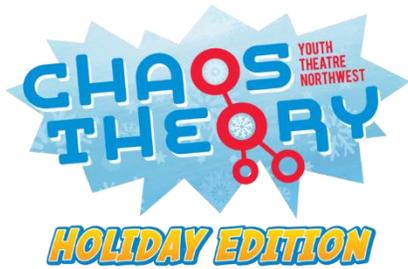
| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Playwright | Kate Swenson |
| Director | Cory Southwell |
| Set Designer | Matthew Lazure |
| Costume Designer | Heather Shannon Culver |
| Costume Assistant | Allie Leslie |
| Lighting Designer | Trina Wright |
| Prop Designer | Robin Macartney |
| Sound Designer | Trey Mcgee |
| Stage Manager | Trina Wright |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Maria Villegas |
| Set Construction | Brian Jackson\ Philip G. Smith Mike Lion |
| Production Volunteer | Carrie Schnelker |

STUDENT CREW:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Student Stage Manager | Nicole E |
| Light Board Operator | Emmett H |
| Sound Board Operator | Timothy G |

Special Thanks: Robin Giese, Roosevelt High School Scene Shop

Coming up next at Youth Theatre Northwest:



In Person: 12/10 - 12/11



Live Streaming 12/12 at 6:00pm

PRODUCTION TEAM'S BIOS:

Kate Swenson (Playwright) This year's YTN projects include writing *The Thing About Unicorns*, *A YTN Christmas Carol*, and making Mimi's lunches. Kate's cozy mystery, *A Steamy Cup of Murder*, (PNWA 2021 Literary contests finalist) will appear in an upcoming collection along with Martina Dalton. Visit www.kateswensonwriter.com for fiction news or www.pinkllamadrama.com for plays (and tell your drama teacher about all the cool plays you can find there!)

Cory Southwell (Director) Over his time at YTN Cory has worn many hats: educator, stage manager, prop designer, director, and most recently Program Director. This past year at YTN, Cory directed *The Princess and the Frog*, the Young Stage cast of *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Sidekick Island*. He is a graduate of Emerson College, with a degree in Theatre Education. Cory has been a state judge for the Washington State Poetry Out Loud Festival, completed the Washington State Teaching Artist Training Lab, and designed for MoPop and Book-It Repertory Theatre. Shout out to Kate Swenson for being an Inspirationcorn.

Matthew T. Lazure (Set Designer) is a PNW fine artist, scenic designer, craftsman, and scenic painter originally from Boston, MA. His fine art can be seen locally at Lynn Hanson Gallery and the Mercer Island Visual Arts League (MIVAL) Gallery. Recent scenic design credits include YTN's *Men on Boats*, *Rescued*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Sidekick Island*, and *the Complete Works of Shakespeare*. He's thrilled to be a part of Youth Theatre Northwest's creative team and looks forward to future projects with YTN.

Heather Culver (Costume Designer) is delighted to be designing the delightful *The Thing About Unicorns* here at Youth Theatre Northwest! This is Heather's 17th season with YTN, and has designed costumes for YTN's productions of *Rescued*, *Men on Boats*, *The Monkey King*, *The Lion King Jr.*, *Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.*, *Willy Wonka Jr.*, *Treasure Island*, *Seussical Jr.*, *Robin Hood*, *The Neverending Story*, *Animal Farm*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Urinetown*, *Disney's Sleeping Beauty*, *Pippi Longstocking* and most recently *The Wizard of Oz* among others. She on staff at YTN as the Costume Shop Manager, a Dickens Caroler, and has worked as a seamstress and/or a costume designer around town for The Seattle Shakespeare Company, Spectrum Dance Theatre, Taproot Theatre, and The Seagull Project among others. She sends her love to Chili and Sophie.

Trina Wright (Stage Manager/Lighting Designer) has had such a fun time working with these young artists in *The Thing About Unicorns*. Previous stage manager credits at YTN include *Flora and Ulysses*, *Young Sherlock*, and *the Adventures of Pinocchio*. Recent lighting designs at YTN include *The Sky Below*, *Shrek, Jr*, and *the Wizard of OZ*. Upcoming will be *Pride and Prejudice* at Seattle Pacific University and *39 Steps* at YTN. When not at the theater, Trina can be found watching X-Files with her boys, walking her ancient Irish terrier, or waiting for coffee to brew with her husband.

Robin Macartney (Prop Designer) LOVES UNIVORNS. She is a freelance set and props designer who has been fortunate to work with a large number of the theatre companies in Seattle. She is the resident set designer at Theatre Off Jackson as well as the scene shop supervisor for the University of Puget Sound's Theatre Department.

Trey McGee (Sound Designer) 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!

KUDOS:

Rinesa,

Congratulations and BRAVO! Hard work pays off. You did it and we are so proud of you! We wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors We LOVE YOU VERY MUCH.

Daddy, Mommy, and Dion <3

Yolanda,

Thanks for creating such a positive experience for us! You are important!

I Bee-Leaf in you!

Rishaan,

We are so thrilled to watch you and your very first acting performance! We have seen you work so hard, take initiative, with a smile on your face from start to finish. It has been our pleasure to be part of this experience with you, and we can't wait to see you in more productions! We are so proud of you and love you to the moon and back!

Love, Dad, Mom, Keshav

Dear Viola,

It's always wonderful to see you grow as a person as well as an actor each time you go through a production process with YTN, and we believe you've grown more by working towards "The Thing About Unicorns".

We're very proud of you!

From Papa, Mama, Bobbi & Cracker

Ollie - We are so proud of all your hard work and we can't wait to see you strut your stuff on the YTN stage. Break a leg and Shine Bright!

HTWG- You are awesome and your parents are super proud of you. Rock on with your bad self! ("Bad" is a good thing in the slang vernacular of your parents' generation)

YOUTH THEATRE NORTHWEST STAFF:

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
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| Managing Director | Stephanie Bull |
| Program Director | Cory Southwell |
| Development Director | Katie McKenna |
| Program Associate | Mike Lion |
| Administrative Assistant | Alyssa Maas |
| Facilities Manager/Resident Artist | Brian Jackson |
| Bookkeeper | Beth Sampson |
| Costume Shop Manager | Heather Shannon Culver |
| Marketing Associate | Kim Douthit |
| Marketing Copywriter | Philip G. Smith |
| Graphic Designer | Shawn Linder |

YOUTH THEATRE NORTHWEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Megan Atkinson | Malcolm Lawrence |
| Michelle Bomberger | Tom Lofton |
| Kristina Crothers | Carrie Rolph |
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| Karin Davies | Diane Sloss |
| Cathy Dean | Chanya Swartz, <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Carina Evens, <i>Secretary</i> | Robynne Thaxton |
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