

THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS



T H E
PREMIERE
P R E M I E R E S

*Local theatre by
local artists!*

Aftermath
by Mikennah Oleson

Battle Cry
by Sigue Sueños



O R P H E U M
T H E A T E R C E N T E R

February 13 - 16, 2025

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Director's Note



As a theatre artist, I've had the privilege of working in many different communities, telling a variety of stories. Each project has deepened my understanding of theatre's power to bring people together and spark change. But there's something deeply special about returning to South Dakota, the place where it all began, and being trusted with stories from my own community—stories that have long deserved to be heard.

Coming back home has been a journey of rediscovery. After years away, it's been incredible to reconnect with this place, to work with local artists, and to help tell stories that reflect who we are. It's also a humbling reminder of the importance of home—how it shapes us and continues to teach us.

Aftermath and *Battle Cry* resonate with me on a personal level. Mikennah Oleson's *Aftermath* brings to light the raw emotions that surface when time is running out, forcing us to face what we truly value. *Battle Cry* by Sique Sueños explores the intersection of being both Indigenous and queer—something rarely seen on stage. To witness these voices finally take center stage feels both necessary and overdue, and I am honored to help bring them to life.

I want to thank you, our audience, for taking a chance on something new. Your time and support of live, new theatre means the world. It's a gift to be part of a community that not only values but actively supports new art. I'm so grateful to share these stories with you.

Jen Luke

Stage Director





This engagement is supported by the *Arts Midwest* GIG Fund, a program of *Arts Midwest* that is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from South Dakota Arts Council.

Esta serie cuenta con el apoyo de *Arts Midwest* GIG Fund, un programa de *Arts Midwest* financiado por la agencia del Fondo Nacional de las Artes y con contribuciones adicionales del South Dakota Arts Council.



Funding for the Premieres Program Playwriting Course was provided by the
 MARY CHILTON CHAPTER
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Today's program is made possible by a grant from the *South Dakota Humanities Council*, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Managing Artistic Director's Note



Welcome to the third annual *Premiere Premieres*, a celebration of creativity, growth, and storytelling. This event marks the culmination of The Premiere Playwriting Program, a year-long, three-phase educational initiative dedicated to nurturing new voices in theatre.

Tonight, we are proud to present *Aftermath* by Mikennah Oleson and *Battle Cry* by Sigue Sueños. These captivating plays showcase the imagination, courage, and dedication of their creators, who have worked tirelessly to share stories that inspire, challenge, and resonate with our community.

We also extend our deepest gratitude to the remarkable cast and crew for their commitment to bringing these stories to life. Their talent and dedication have honored the playwrights' voices and transformed their visions into meaningful performances.

This program would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and grantors. Their investment in education and the arts empowers emerging playwrights and strengthens our community's creative spirit. We are deeply thankful for their belief in our mission.

To our playwrights, cast, crew, and audience – thank you for being part of this creative journey!

Enjoy the show,

Oliver Mayes
 Managing Artistic Director

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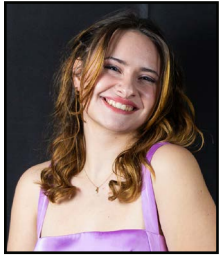
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Aftermath Inspiration



What would you do with an hour left to live?

I'd place bets you've heard that question once or twice—maybe you've even tried to answer it. In our community and our world, the question is deeply difficult to answer. Perhaps there's a place you'd visit, a person you'd find, or a conversation you'd resolve. Perhaps there's something yet to be discovered within who we are. In our fear, we seek what matters most, whatever it may be. And that is where we find truth for ourselves—truth about what it means to love. That is where I found *Aftermath*.

Jeffery Hatcher writes, "We go to the theater to be entertained and to understand." There is still much left to understand. The world we live in is changing, and whether we like it or not, we must continue on. We trudge through the unknown—and we do it together. It's isolating to be afraid, especially when it feels as though there's no hope. In the midst of crisis, may you find your people, your purpose, and your community. Seek a life abundant in love, and cherish every second. You may never know your last.

Aftermath, with the words you'll experience tonight, was a regional finalist for the honor of Outstanding Short Play. Written on a whim, it's been a whirlwind. Art is alive and vibrant, carried forward by a new generation of creators, dreamers, and storytellers. As one, I implore you: tell your stories.

Thank you for spending your night with us.

Mikennah Oleson



Battle Cry Inspiration



Battle Cry began in response to a lack of representation of Indigenous voices in media, especially in theater. It's an unapologetic critique of the racism, femmephobia, and fatphobia within the queer community. Most importantly, it's an acknowledgement of Indigenous ancestors who were forcibly removed, silenced, and erased; in particular, Two-Spirit ancestors whose narratives have been straightened and whitened. Without their endurance, strength, and reclamation, Battle Cry couldn't have been written.

Sigue Sueños

Production Team



Paint & Properties Coordinator	Abby Kustak
Production Manager	Alex Newcomb Weiland
Costume, Hair & Make Up Designer	Brittney Lewis
Stage Manager	Carlie Terrall
Lighting Designer	Chelsea Chapman
Directing Assistant (Battle Cry), Sound Designer, Audio Engineer	Frances DeArmond
Directing Assistant (Aftermath), Assistant Stage Manager	Jamie Bowden
Stage Director (Aftermath & Battle Cry)	Jen Luke
Scenic Designer, Technical Director	Jill Clark
Playwright of Aftermath	Mikennah Oleson
Producer & Casting Director	Oliver Mayes
Head Carpenter, Technical Coordinator	Pierce Humke
Playwright of Battle Cry	Sigue Sueños

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Meet The Cast (Aftermath)



Casey Schultz / Jackie

Casey (she/her) is thrilled to bring Jackie to life on stage. A familiar face at the Orpheum, she recently portrayed Ms. Meyers in *Freaky Friday*. Casey is grateful to the audience for supporting new, local theater and would like to thank her parents, Wayne and Roxy, for their unwavering support. She is excited to share this performance with you and hopes you enjoy the show!



Christian Heiberger / Newscaster

Christian is proud to be involved with another year of *Premiere Premieres* for his 22nd show, this time ushering in the end of the world as the Newscaster. When not performing, you can find him playing D&D, baking cookies for castmates and coworkers, and occasionally climbing rocks at Falls Park. Special thanks to Jackson, Lindsay, and ALL the Cratchit family (honorary members count too! Miss you all! Cratchits forever!) for their unwavering love and support.



India Johnson / Daphne

India is thrilled to take on the role of Daphne in *The Premiere Premieres* one act *Aftermath!* You may have seen her in the past few shows, such as Bumble in *A Christmas Carol*, Crissy in *HAIR*, and also a high school student in *Freaky Friday*. India would like to thank her fiancé Jackson and the director for pushing her to be the best Daphne she can be! She'd also like to thank her friends and family for supporting her in every show she's in! Love you all!!!



Jackson Heiberger / Henry

Jackson is proud to make his debut in the annual *Premiere Premieres* as Henry! He's had a busy year so far, having recently portrayed Fred Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Adam in *Freaky Friday*, and tribe member Neo in *HAIR*. If he's not on stage, you can find him behind the scenes running tech crew for any show he can. Jackson would like to thank Christian, India, and Marisa for all their love and support over the years. Love you guys!



Jake Cox / Nick

Jake Cox is a father, entrepreneur, actor, and guy who makes stuff, and he's proud to be part of *The Premiere Premieres!* If you're getting married or renewing your vows, visit Jake online at SiouxFallsWeddingOfficiant.com Jake wrote a novel! Buy Mr. Smith Isn't Afraid of the Dark for Kindle at tinyurl.com/MrSmithNovel

Meet The Cast (Aftermath)



Thomas Andrew Simmons / Frank

Most recently, Thomas has performed with TPP as Ebenezer Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, Fagin in *Oliver!*, Alan in *God of Carnage*, Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*, Milos in *Forum*, and in the inaugural *Premiere Premieres*. Other Orpheum roles include Stone in *City of Angels*, John/Judas in *Godspell*, Elyot in *Private Lives*, Bruce in *Beyond Therapy*, and Danny in *Grease*. Thomas would like to thank his loving wife and family.



Meet The Cast (Battle Cry)



Jim McClain / Puff

Jim is grateful to be playing Puff in *Battle Cry* for *The Premiere Premieres*. You may have seen him last year as Mark Stroud in *Comfortably Single*, as Blaze in *HAIR*, and recently as Wimple and a pair of Marley's ghostly arms in *A Christmas Carol*. Jim would like to thank the group of wild thespians and bards he now calls the dearest of friends for working diligently to make The Premiere Playhouse and all community theater in the area the accessible, safe, and joyful places they need to be. Please continue to support local theater! Lastly, he sends his deep admiration, gratitude and best dad jokes to the role model of all Premiere Players: Phil Kappen.

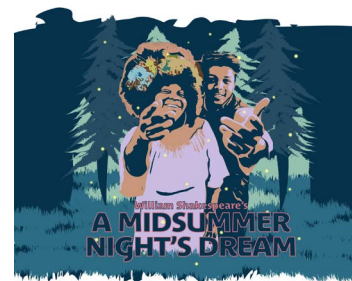


Joseph Karnof / QT

Joseph is excited to step back on stage after a bit of a hiatus. He has been working behind the scene as a stage manager for *Freaky Friday* and as deck captain for *HAIR!* Joseph is beyond grateful to be stepping into the role of QT. This has been an amazing opportunity to tell a long overdue story. Joseph would like to thank his girlfriend Samantha Huntimer for all of her support as he takes on his this role!



UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS



MARCH 20 - 30, 2025



JUNE 12 - 22, 2025





Production Team

Carlie Terrall / Stage Manager

Carlie (she/her) is excited to be joining the Orpheum (back) stage for another production! She has Stage Managed for The Premiere Playhouse on past productions such as, *Oklahoma!* and their annual Penguin Project. Carlie is a recent graduate from Augustana University where she received her degree in theatre. Carlie's most recent projects include Assistant Stage Managing Goodnight Theatre Collective's production of *A Christmas Story* and Stage Managing Roger's and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* with Prairie Repertory Theatre. Carlie would like to thank her friends, family, and supporters at Augustana and elsewhere for their endless love and guidance.

Chelsea Chapman / Lighting Designer

Chelsea is ecstatic to have the opportunity to be the Lighting Coordinator for both *Aftermath* and *Battle Cry*. She graduated from Weber State University (Ogden, Utah) where she was part of productions such as *Sweeney Todd* to originals in their Innovations Theatre, one titled *I, Medusa*. She recently was the electrician for *A Christmas Carol*. She would like to thank her immediate and extended family for loving and supporting her, even from different states.

Frances DeArmond / Directing Assistant (Battle Cry), Sound Designer, Audio Engineer

Frances (they/she, Yaqui) is excited to continue her work with TPP in their *Premiere Premieres* production! Frances finished their time at Northwestern College's theatre department with accolades before moving to Sioux Falls this past June. When not working her magic, Frances works for the Boys and Girls Club in their K-5 after school program. You can also find her playing viola with her host parents in SNO or as a community member at USF!

Jamie Bowden / Directing Assistant (Aftermath), Assistant Stage Manager

Jamie is excited to be taking on a new role at TPP as Directing Assistant for *Aftermath*! He has worked back stage on past TPP productions such as *Grease*, *Oklahoma*, and *Hair* as well as on stage roles in *The Little Mermaid*, *A Christmas Carol*, last years *Premiere Premieres' Comfortably Single*, and *Freaky Friday*. Jamie is beyond grateful to The Premiere Playhouse for allowing him the opportunity to continue growing within his theatre journey!

Jen Luke / Stage Director

Jen is a director and theatre educator from South Dakota, now excited to put down roots after years of working across the country and abroad. With an MFA in Theatre Arts, she's dedicated to creating theatre that connects people and sparks change. From Tony Award-winning companies to community projects and youth programs, Jen has a broad range of experience. She's thrilled to be back in South Dakota, directing this show and building creative connections in her home state.

Mikennah Oleson / Playwright (Aftermath)

Mikennah Oleson (She/Her/Hers) is a jack of all trades who found her home telling stories. She is a junior at Augustana University and a regional finalist for the John Cauble Outstanding Short Play Award. She sends her utmost gratitude to her loved ones, friends, and family. She would especially like to thank Ryan, Jayna, Richard, and Xavier for the endless support she never had to ask for. Enjoy the show!

Sigue Seños / Playwright (Battle Cry)

Sigue Sueños (Apache/Yaqui Two-Spirit) wishes to quote Björk: "I am grateful grapefruit." Many thanks to mama, for the love of stories; padre, for strength and perseverance; Yaya, for pushing 'send' on the submission; and the muses: KBJ, CAK, CJG, TLC, and JCM, who know who they are. Sigue is eternally indebted to Britney Spears.



Production Crew

Deck Crew Christian Heiberger
Lori Kent

Mic Wrangler Bob Nelson

Wig Crew Anna Crawford

Sound & Light Board Operator Ryan Harrison

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Costume Shop Manager & Development Associate Brittney Lewis

Scenic & Technical Supervisor Jill Clark

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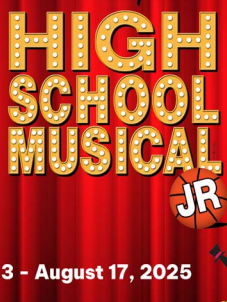


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