

THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

**PRESENTS**

**TWO  
SIDES**

BY LEIGH SPENCER



**&**

**THE  
QUESTION  
AND THE  
ANSWER**

BY H.E. DUNKLE

**February 20 - 22, 2026**

[www.thepremiereplayhouse.com](http://www.thepremiereplayhouse.com)

February 20 - 22, 2026



Presents

## ***The Premiere Premieres***

***Two Sides***  
by Leigh Spencer

***The Question And The Answer***  
by H.E. Dunkle

Stage Director  
**Jen Luke**

Stage Manager  
**Erin Glaesemann**

Scenic Designer  
**Jill Clark**

Lighting Designer  
**Chelsea Chapman**

Sound & Costume Designer  
**Brittney Lewis**

Executive Producer  
**Oliver Mayes**

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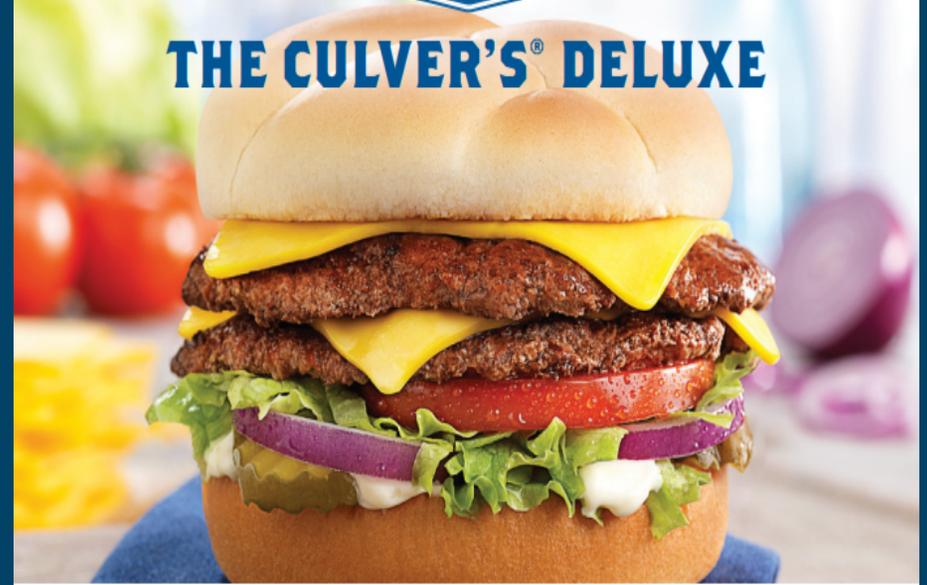
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# THE PREMIERE PLAYHOUSE

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# The Premiere Premieres

## A Note From The Executive Artistic Director



Welcome to **The Premiere Premieres**, one of the programs closest to my heart at **The Premiere Playhouse**. Each year, this **Artist Development Series** initiative exists for one simple but powerful reason: to champion local voices. Over the course of a full year, playwrights from our community engage in an intensive process of education, submission, review, festival readings, adjudication, and development before their work ever reaches the stage. What you experience tonight is the culmination of countless drafts, brave conversations, artistic risk-taking, and a shared belief that new stories told by our very own neighbors deserve to be heard.

What makes The Premiere Premieres especially thrilling is that it places **living, breathing playwrights at the center of the creative process**. Our directors, actors, and designers have the rare opportunity to collaborate directly with the writers shaping these worlds, creating theatre that is immediate, responsive, and deeply connected to the community we serve. These partnerships allow ideas to evolve in real time and ensure that the stories presented are not only entertaining, but resonant.

This season, we are proud to present two distinct and compelling new works: ***The Question and the Answer*** by H.E. Dunkle and ***Two Sides*** by Leigh Spencer. Though very different in tone and style, both plays invite us to lean in, reflect, and delight in the power of storytelling. I extend my deepest thanks to both playwrights for trusting us with their work, their voices, and their vision. I am equally grateful to the inspiring production team and fearless actors who bring these new stories to life with curiosity, care, and courage. Developing new work requires vulnerability, flexibility, and bold artistry – and this group has embraced that challenge with extraordinary generosity and skill.

We are also profoundly thankful to our Artist Development Series sponsor, **First Bank & Trust**, for their continued commitment to supporting local, educational community theatre. Their partnership makes programs like this possible and helps ensure that artists at every stage of their journey can grow, experiment, and thrive. And finally, thank you. To our patrons and supporters: your belief in live, local theatre that means something allows The Premiere Playhouse to keep investing in new voices, new ideas, and the creative spirit of Sioux Falls. We are honored to share this experience with you.

Enjoy the shows,

**Oliver Mayes**

*Executive Artistic Director*

The Premiere Playhouse

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## A Note From The Director



These two plays, *The Question and the Answer* and *Two Sides*, sit inside the tension of duality. In a time when conviction often speaks louder than curiosity, these stories ask us to step aside from certainty and listen more deeply to the other side. I am deeply grateful to lift up local voices whose stories shape this work. Creating art is revolutionary.

This kind of art builds community. Thank you for listening, and for choosing to show up together.

### Jen Luke

Stage Director

*The Premiere Premieres*



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Fabrics, style, era, oh my! Learn what it means to customize a costume with Brittney Lewis.

Sundays, February 1 - March 8, 2026

### **Class: Scenic Design & Construction**

Learn more about the technical theatre world and stagecraft!

Saturdays, March 7 - April 4, 2026

### **Workshop: Social Dances Of The 60's**

Partner up and explore the social dance of the 60's with Rachel Smith!

April 4, 2026

### **Class: Acting - Classic > Contemporary**

Learn more about the art of acting from a classic approach all the way to contemporary.

Sundays, May 3 - June 21, 2026

## REGISTER

[www.thepremiereplayhouse.com](http://www.thepremiereplayhouse.com)



## The Question And The Answer Cast

**Young** Charlie Wood

**Old** Dana Boraas



## Two Sides Cast

**Max** Abby Holmes

**Ashley** Abby Schwedhelm

**Jesse** Garrison Gross

**Chris** Jason Honerman



## Production Team

**Paint & Props Coordinator** Abby Kustak

**Company Manager, Production Manager, Intimacy Coordinator** Alex Newcomb Weiland

**Sound & Costume Designer** Brittney Lewis

**Lighting Designer** Chelsea Chapman

**Stage Manager** Erin Glaesemann

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# Artist Development

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Members will also receive a 20% discount for rental of our event spaces which can be used for small gatherings, rehearsals, and business meetings. Members also have access to resources from our rental catalogue which include scripts, set pieces, props, costumes and event decor. Please visit our website or email or call for more information.

Contact Us for more information

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## Workshop & Classes:



Check out our current workshops, classes, group session and private lessons offerings online by scanning the code to the left!

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# About The Show

## SYNOPSIS

**The Question And The Answer** – by H.E. Dunkle depicts a fateful night on a roof, where two people at different points of life stumble upon each other. As random as their encounter seems, their conversation has much more at stake than one of them realizes.

**Two Sides** – by Leigh Spencer is a relationship comedy set within the walls of two apartments. This story of four people, whose lives are intertwined in unexpected ways, explores romance, friendship, and family with humor and heart.

## COURTESY POLICY

- The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)'s rights, and actionable under United States copyright law.
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- Enjoy the show and please help spread the news about this production. Share with others on Facebook and Instagram and be sure to tag The Premiere Playhouse!

## MERCHANDISE

We have limited edition Premiere Playhouse merchandise available in the lobby! Please stop by our tables for special deals. All items will also be available on our website after the production has ended.

[www.thepremiereplayhouse.com/shop](http://www.thepremiereplayhouse.com/shop)



# Meet The Casts



## Abby Holmes / Max (Two Sides)

Abigail (Abby) is thrilled to make her Premiere Playhouse debut as Max in *Two Sides*. She earned her degree in Communication Studies and Theatre from the University of Sioux Falls, where she currently works as an Admissions Counselor. When she's not on stage, she's usually building some kind of spreadsheet, watching movies, or spending time with friends. She would like to thank Leigh Spencer, Jen Luke, Erin Glaesemann, her castmates, and The Premiere Playhouse team.

# Meet The Casts



## Abby Schwedhelm / Ashley (Two Sides)

Abby is thrilled to to return to the stage and the premiere of *Premieres!* You previously have seen her on the Orpheum stage in *HAIR*, *The Little Mermaid*, and *Grease*. She took a break from the stage to direct TPP's production of *Dolly Parton's 9 to 5* and assistant direct *Freaky Friday*. Abby also loves to direct TPP's education camps in the summer; their most recent production being *Something Rotten Jr.* She wants to thank you for coming in and supporting our local playwrights.



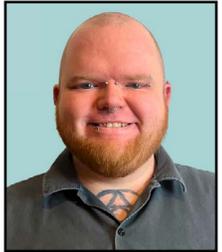
## Garrison Gross / Jesse (Two Sides)

Garrison's excited to share the story of *Two Sides* as his first production with The Premiere Playhouse. After stepping away from theatre to pursue an MS in electrical engineering at SDSU, he now contracts with KBR at USGS EROS on the Landsat team. Recently returning to the stage in *Prince of Peace*, Garrison spends his free time gaming with friends and annoying his neighbors by drumming. Huge thanks to the cast, Leigh, Jen, and Erin!



## Jason Honerman / Chris (Two Sides)

Jason is excited to premiere *Two Sides* as he begins to become involved in local theater again since moving back to Sioux Falls at the beginning of 2025. He attended NSU in Aberdeen, SD. While in Aberdeen he was involved in many productions with the college and community theaters while working as a tattoo artist. He currently works at Shrunken Head Tattoos and while not working is often painting, drawing, or pursuing other artistic endeavors.



## Charlie Wood / Young (The Question And The Answer)

Charlie is elated to be making their Premiere Playhouse debut in *The Question and The Answer!* They're a sophomore at University of Sioux Falls with a double Major in Communication Studies and Theater, and Media Studies. Their passion for theater, and storytelling has aided them in various productions, whether that be school, community, or professional. When not in a show, Charlie can be found reading a good book, or crafting something. Thanks for coming to the show!



## Dana Boraas / Old (The Question And The Answer)

Dana is very happy to be back on stage after a several year hiatus mostly riding in the passenger seat of the theater. Thank you to Tom, Perrin, Gryphon and Orion for being my support and inspiration to keep on. Thanks to Jen for the opportunity, to Charlie for being a great play partner, Erin for being more organized than I ever will and Hope for trusting us with your beautiful creation. I think you are all pretty nifty!



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## Meet The Production



### **Erin Glaesemann** / Stage Manager

Erin is excited to be Stage Managing *The Premiere Premieres* this season. She was most recently the Stage Manager for *Noises Off* earlier this season at the Playhouse. She had previously worked with the Sioux Empire Community Theatre on several productions. She would like to thank the Playhouse for this opportunity. Enjoy the show!

### **H.E. Dunkel** / Playwright of 'The Question And The Answer'

Hope "H.E." Dunkel has written several plays, ranging from middle school comedies to full-length tragedies. Many of her plays touch on the virtue she's named after, but *The Question and the Answer* is by far the most upfront about that topic. She is beyond thankful you chose to attend *The Premiere Premieres*, and hopes your soul is nourished by these two one-acts, whether it be through a hearty laugh or a heartfelt message.

### **Jen Luke** / Stage Director

Jen is a South Dakota-raised theatre director, educator, and arts leader who believes every voice matters and that creative access is essential. Her work spans rural and urban communities across the U.S. and abroad, from street theatre and youth-devised work to large-scale productions and new play development. She holds an MFA in Theatre Arts from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and has a well-documented love of puppets, jackalopes, and brave rehearsal rooms where curiosity, humor, and humanity are always welcome.

### **Leigh Spencer** / Playwright of 'Two Sides'

Leigh loves to tell stories, in many forms, that don't always turn out the way you expect. She is thrilled to see her play, *Two Sides*, come to life through this program. Leigh's first play, *Comfortably Single*, was produced as part of the second *Premiere Premieres* in 2024. She extends her gratitude to everyone who supports new play development, including the audience, and she hopes you find what you need in both plays.

## Special Thanks!

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