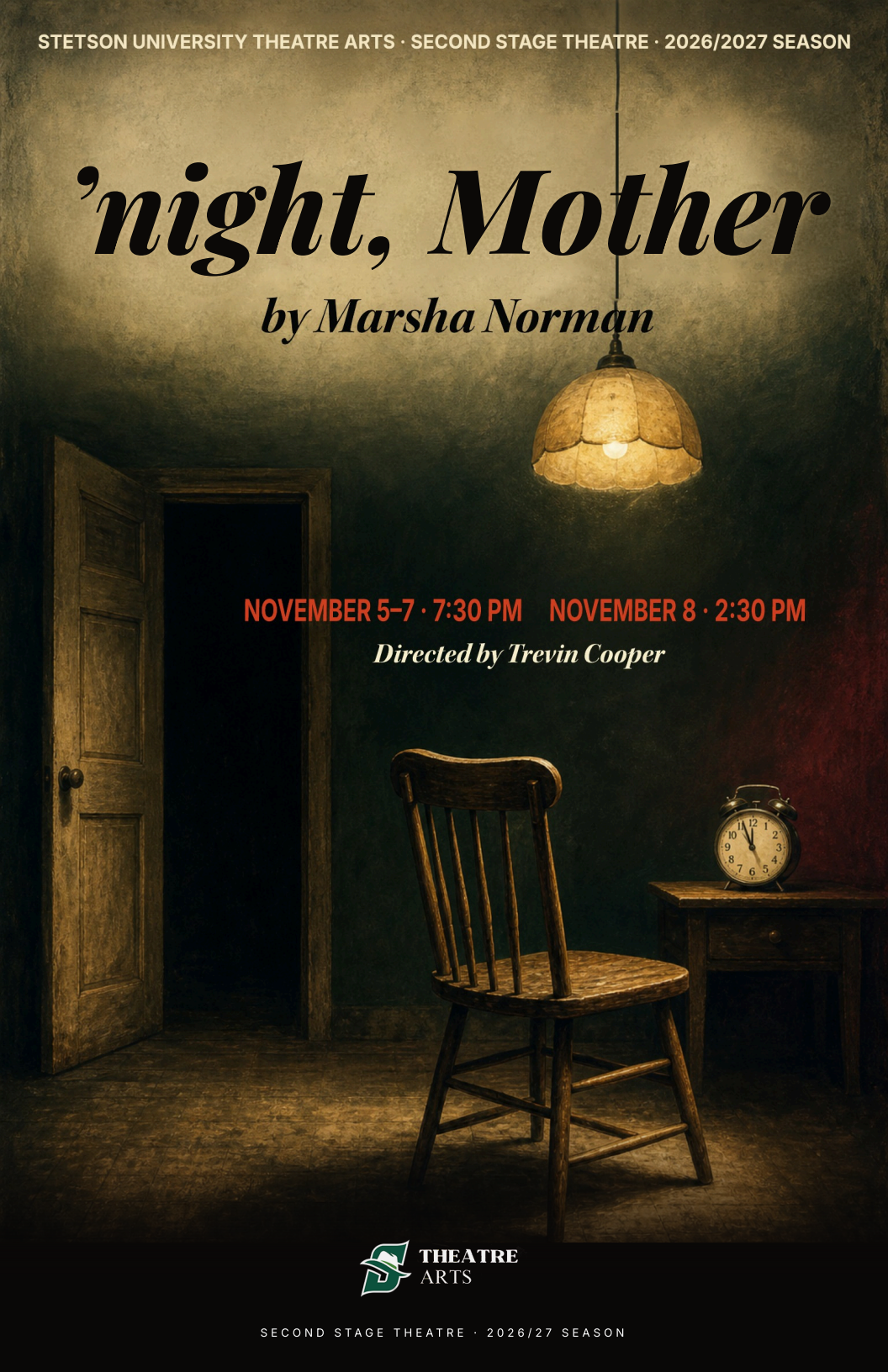
STETSON UNIVERSITY THEATRE ARTS · SECOND STAGE THEATRE · 2026/2027 SEASON

'night, Mother

by Marsha Norman



NOVEMBER 5–7 · 7:30 PM NOVEMBER 8 · 2:30 PM

Directed by Trevin Cooper

THEATRE ARTS

SECOND STAGE THEATRE · 2026/27 SEASON

2026 — 2027 Season

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In a modest aging home, Thelma and her daughter, Jessie live what appears to be a quiet existence. However, when Jessie reveals a carefully detailed secret, these two women will unpack their lives, their relationship and their history in one extraordinary night.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, playwright, Marsha Norman's masterpiece, *'night, Mother*, is a soul-searing examination of love, hate and perhaps the most complex word of all, "family."

CONTENT NOTE
This play contains mature subject matter, including suicide, and may not be suitable for all ages.

Director's Note

"Life is hard. Some think death is easier. Why? You decide."

Like many Theatre practitioners of my generation, the play *'night, Mother* was omnipresent to our educations. It was required reading at least once a semester. It was utilized repeatedly in acting classes for its monologues, and directing classes for its small cast and beautiful, character driven, dialogue. However, after the play's 2004 Broadway revival, it seemed to slip into the recesses of time with only one to two productions happening each year. There were whispers in the early 2010s of a revival starring Oprah Winfrey and Audra McDonald which never materialized. Now, this Pulitzer Prize winning masterwork seems to have all but disappeared from regular production. Why? In my opinion it is because the word and act of suicide are a more complicated topic than they have ever been.

In our modern era of supposed constant connection, death, the most private of events, is often publicly dissected in the deceased's social media. I have had several friends take their lives, and have witnessed people writing lengthy public letters on their pages and pictures asking "WHY" as though hoping for a response. When we discover someone has committed suicide, we often identify the person who made this choice as "mentally ill." If it happened to someone we know, our thought could be, "What could I have done to save them?" We look upon them with pity for the choice they made. We forget the word "choice" and once someone has made this choice we cannot ask them if they regret it. However, we generally assume they do. The truth is, we do not know. Yes, we mourn them, but beyond that we will never have certainty. We will never truly know what their lives or deaths meant to them.

That is the heart of this play. It requires audiences to ask, "What does my life and my death mean to me?"

– Trevin Cooper, Director

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From Our Alumni

"At Stetson I was able to explore all realms of theatre and find what I truly wanted to pursue in life. Costuming and set design became my focus and during my time at the school I was able to expand on my capacities in those areas. Through Stetson I was able to attend events that led to my first professional job in the industry as well as a place in the Disney College Program."

– Ashley Hew, '23
Disney College Program, Costume Shop

"Reflecting on my time at Stetson fills me with both a sense of accomplishment and nostalgia. The Theatre Arts program served as my creative haven, where I found genuine acceptance and a community that loved each other but could, and often would, give out tough love when it was needed. During my four years at Stetson I got to play a wide variety of roles – more so than I'd ever had in the eight years I'd been doing theater prior. Working as an actress professionally isn't easy, but I truly believe that this department gave me the tools and the confidence in myself to do so."

– Liza Tannanbaum, '22
Actress, Boston Metro Area

"The time I spent with the Theatre Arts program at Stetson University has set me up to be more well-rounded in the theatre industry. The program's focus on exploring all aspects of theatrical practices, from its history, to theory, and practical application, has led to a better and deeper appreciation of my fellow designers and artists, and the collaborative environments we work in. Furthermore, the passion of the faculty and of my peers within the program continues to inspire me and influence my creativity, years after graduating."

– Preston Foss, '20
Light Designer, Central Florida Area

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DIRECTOR
Trevin Cooper

STAGE MANAGER
Cody Desrosiers

COSTUME DESIGNER
Cheryl Orr

SCENIC DESIGNER
Krista Franco

LIGHT DESIGNER
Nicholas Hogan

SOUND DESIGNER
Ian Daly

Cast

THELMA	Sara Hambert Rachel Yadanza
JESSIE	Molly F. Monahan

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Production Staff

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Sara Torres
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	Eres Pittman
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR	Whitley Landry
RUN CREW	Maddie Heathcott
LEAD CARPENTER	Molly Monahan
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	Calista Karapiperis
WARDROBE CREW	Sara Torres
HAIR & MAKEUP DESIGNER	Aron Grogan
SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST	Krista Franco
PROPERTIES COORDINATOR	Erin Cassidy
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Patrick Pieri
PUBLICITY MANAGER	Natalie Vaughn
BOX OFFICE MANAGER	Patrick Pieri
BOX OFFICE ASSISTANT	Miles Reynolds
ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHY	And You Films
PRODUCTION CREW	Students enrolled in THEA 121, 210 & 214

'night, Mother

by Marsha Norman

Cast

Sara Hambert (Thelma)
Sara is thrilled to return to Stetson University, having previously appeared as Harriet in *POTUS*, and is especially grateful to be joining the cast of *'night, Mother* as Thelma, under the direction of Trevin Cooper. She is even more delighted to be sharing the role with her best friend, Rachel, who cast Sara in her very first production after she moved to Volusia County. Full circle—and what a lovely circle it is.

Favorite roles include Annie Wilkes in *Misery* at Athens Theatre, Harriet in *POTUS*, Mrs. White in *Clue*, Dottie/Mrs. Clackett in *Noises Off!*, Madame Thénardier in *Les Misérables*, Florence and Olive in *The Odd Couple: Female Version*, Gretchen in *Boeing Boeing*, and Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown*. She also had the pleasure of playing Morgan Kelly in the filmed sitcom pilot *High Existence*.

Sara is incredibly grateful to the cast and crew for their talent, generosity, humor, and hard work, and hopes audiences leave with something to think about and something to feel.

Rachel Yadanza (Thelma)
Rachel is excited to return to the Stetson stage in *'night, Mother*. She's been directing and teaching theatre for over 20 years with notable productions at The Yadanza Theatre Company, Little Theatre in NSB, Athens Theatre, and Shoestring Theatre. A few of her favorite shows from her long career were *POTUS*; *Proof*; *The Revolutionists*; *Boeing, Boeing*; and *Hay Fever*. A big kiss to Jeremy, Finn and Amelia for all their support.

Molly Monahan (Jessie)
Molly is a senior majoring in Theatre and Digital Arts here at Stetson. You may have seen them in *Collide* (Margot), *The Real Inspector Hound* (Moon), and *The Revolutionists* (Charlotte). They also served as PA for Robin Pyle's short film "Still Alive" (2025) and Assistant Stage Manager for Leonidus Gonzalez' *The Writer's Room* (2024) at Shoestring Theatre. Molly is grateful to be able to work with such an inspiring cast and crew on *'night, Mother* and hopes you enjoy the show!

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Trevin Cooper (Director) Serves as Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at Stetson. Previous directing credits include: *Suite Surrender*, *Burn This*, *A Doll's House, Part 2*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Private Lives*, *Proof*, *Red*, *Lend Me a Tenor*, *The Miracle Worker*, *The 39 Steps*, *The American Plan*, *The Last Five Years*, *Art*, *Always...Patsy Cline*, and *9/11: We Will Forget*, among others. Trevin holds an MFA from The University of Central Florida, an MA from The University of Oklahoma, and a BA from Rollins College. Thank you, as always, to my colleagues in Creative Arts who, along with the students, make coming to work everyday a true joy.

Krista Franco (Scenic Designer/Scenic Charge Artist) is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Theatre Arts here at Stetson University. Her most recent professional credits are designs for a world premiere musical, *The Chequerboard Watch* and *Steel Magnolias* at Delaware Theatre Company. Regionally, Krista has designed for the Athens Theatre, the School of Theatre at Florida State University, Florida Gulf Coast University and Ole Miss Theatre & Film as a visiting guest artist. She is a founding member of Endstation Theatre Company, in residence at Randolph College, where she served as the company's production manager and resident scenic designer from 2006-2022. She is a professional member of the Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) and is a former chair of the Design & Technology Committee.

Nicholas Hogan (Light Designer) Nick is a Florida-based Lighting Designer with over 8 years of Lighting and Project management experience. Nick owns and operates HoganLX, a lighting company that has provided design and installation services for communities all across Florida. A few places Nick has worked with have been: Athens Theater in DeLand, the Barn Theater in Stuart, Stetson Opera in DeLand, the News Journal Center in Daytona, Seaworld Orlando, the Orlando Family Stage, and the Maltz Jupiter Theater. Nick is thrilled to be here working on the Stetson's production of *'night, Mother*.

Cheryl Orr (Costume Designer) has her BA in Costume Production from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and worked as the Costume Shop Manager at the University of Florida. Cheryl is enjoying the students and creative staff here at Stetson's Second Stage and looks forward to each new production.

Ian Daly (Sound Designer) is a freshman Biochemistry major here at Stetson University. This is his first time as a Sound Designer and he is excited to learn a new position in the theatre. Ian gives thanks to the development team of this show for the new opportunity.

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Patrick Pieri (Technical Director / Box Office Manager) graduated from Stetson University in 2006 with a BA in Theatre Arts. He has worked as a designer, stagehand, and technical director for several theater companies including Des Moines Metro Opera, Athens Theatre and Wilde Coward Company.

Cody Desrosiers (Stage Manager) is a fourth-year transfer student from Daytona State College, currently pursuing a BA degree in Theatre Arts with a minor in Digital Arts at Stetson University. Originally from Tyngsborough, Massachusetts and now a resident of New Smyrna Beach, Cody has worked on every production of the 2024–2025 season at the Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach, as well as several productions with the Athens Theatre in DeLand, Second Stage Theatre at Stetson, and the News-Journal Center at Daytona State College. They are excited to serve as the stage manager for *'night, Mother* at Second Stage Theatre. Cody thanks Doug Bishop and Trevin Cooper for their reignited passion for theatre.

Erin Cassidy (Props Designer) is a sophomore Theatre Major here at Stetson University. Previous credits include *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* (Props Designer), *In Pieces* (Ensemble), *Shrek the Musical* (Light Board Operator) and *The Real Inspector Hound* (Costume Supervisor). She would like to thank Krista, her roommate Kaitlyn, and her mother, Barbara.

Calista Karapiperis (Wardrobe Supervisor) is a senior Theatre Arts major with a minor in Anthropology at Stetson University. She has been involved in Stetson Theatre Arts both behind the scenes and through costume design, including serving as the lead costume designer for *Collide*. Calista has also worked in Stetson's costume shop throughout her time at the university and has a passion for costume styling, and sustainable fashion. She is excited to be a part of the wardrobe crew for *'night, Mother* and to help bring the production to life. She hopes to continue pursuing her love for costume and fashion after graduation.

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Sara Torres (Assistant Stage Manager / Wardrobe Crew) is a freshman here at Stetson University and is majoring in Psychology. This is her first time as part of a production with Stetson University but has experience with doing theatre in high school. She is excited to hopefully continue being part of productions and theatre here at Stetson. Sara would like to thank her family for getting her into theatre and inspiring her to keep doing it.

Whitley Landry (Sound Board Operator) is a Freshman Communications and Media Studies major here at Stetson University. Past credits include *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* (Assistant Stage Manager/Dance Captain) and *Shrek the Musical* (Dance Captain/Ensemble) with Destrehan High School Theatre. She is so excited to begin her journey in theatre here at Stetson.

Eres Pittman (Light Board Operator) is a freshman Theatre Arts major at Stetson University. During high school, Eres spent three years working on a variety of productions, gaining experience in both sound and lighting design. Her experience behind the scenes has allowed her to explore the technical side of theatre and develop a passion for creating the atmosphere and visual elements that bring a production to life. Eres is excited and grateful for the opportunity to continue growing her skills and work with lights at Stetson University. She looks forward to learning from the cast and crew and contributing to the production.

Maddie Heathcott (Run Crew) is a freshman Aquatic and Marine Biology major here at Stetson University. They were the Stage Manager for their high school productions in 11th and 12th grade. She also has some experience on stage; her favorite was playing Annie Sullivan in her high school's production of *The Miracle Worker*. She is super excited about the ability to get involved in theatre here at Stetson.

Miles Reynolds (Box Office Assistant) is a senior Theatre Arts major at Stetson. You may have seen him onstage in *Collide* (Percy), *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl* (Mr. Lawrence), and *The Real Inspector Hound* (Birdboot) here at Stetson. Miles has also previously worked backstage on *Burn This* and *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)*. He is thrilled to be working in the box office for the very first time, and hopes to apply what he learns to a career in theatre administration after he graduates in May. Miles would like to thank the cast, the crew, his family, and the audience for their support.

Aron Grogan (Hair & Makeup Designer) is a freshman at Stetson, and this is the first play he's been involved in at the collegiate level. He designed for plays at his high school, Lake Minneola, such as *Peter Rabbit* (props designer) and *AML* (makeup designer). He is excited for you to see *'night, Mother* and hopes you enjoy the show!

Natalie Vaughn (Publicity) is a junior Digital Arts major at Stetson University and a La Valle Scholar. She handles publicity for Stetson's Second Stage Theatre productions and is UX designer at AstreaX, where she designs enterprise interfaces. She started her journey for design at the fine arts academy in Florence, then worked in London's club scene and art galleries. She also has a deep passion for photography.

Community Partners



Special thanks to Alanna Pollack for embroidery work in both scenery and costumes.

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Stetson Theatre Arts

Stetson Theatre History

Stetson University hosts the longest-running theater in the state of any kind – educational, community, and professional – with over 750 productions in its time. Stetson's chapter of the National Theater Honorary, Theta Alpha Phi, was one of the original five, founded in March of 1930 by Dr. Irving Stover. Stetson's Theater Arts program typically hosts over 20 theater majors and over 80 student participants in theater productions every academic year. Stetson theater students are regularly offered the opportunity to assume various leadership roles in theater productions and all Stetson students are eligible for casting and backstage work from the first semester of their first year.

Many Stetson theatre students go on to pursue successful careers in such areas as law, teaching, and business. Many also pursue successful careers in the entertainment industry onstage and off-stage, such as:

Delicia Bent '24, Professional Actress/Stagehand, The Studio Theatre Tierra Del Sol

Joshua Dennis '23, Professional Actor, Athens Theatre, Central Florida Area

Ashley Hew '23, Disney College Program, Costume Shop Attendant

Liza Tannanbaum '22, Professional Actress, Boston Metro Area

Preston Foss '20, Light Designer, Central Florida Area

Katie Pulling '19, Art Department Manager, Global Scenic Services

Junior Nyong'o '17, Professional Stage Actor, The Public Theater NYC

Luis Garcia '17, Lighting/Video Designer, honoree for Live Design's 30 Under 30 list for rising young artists

Megan Vaughn '16, Properties Artisan at the North Shore Music Theatre

Drew Neitzey '15, Assistant Production Manager, Crossroads Live

Cassie Kris '14, Company Manager, Theatre Lab at FAU, Boca Raton

Brendan Rogers '07, director of the independent films, *Flashback* and *Bubba the Redneck Werewolf*

Heidi Howard '99, Artistic director for 7 Stage Theater in Atlanta, GA

Paris Benjamin '99, professional TV/film actress with roles in *Extant*, *Scandal*, *NCIS*, *Grey's Anatomy*, and *Star Trek: Into Darkness*

Renee Lawless '99, professional actress playing Midwife and Madame Morrible in the national tour of *Wicked* (2008-2013), Katheryn Cryer in Tyler Perry's *The Haves and Have Nots* (2012-2021) on the Oprah Winfrey Network

Jeff Bowen '93, professional actor and Obie award-winning composer of the Broadway musical, *[Title of Show]*

Michael Yeargan '68, winner of two Tony awards for best scene design

Ramon Delgado '61, Louis Phillips '60, and **Mark Kenneally '97,** Playwrights

Ted Cassidy '55, professional actor known best for originating the role of Lurch in *The Addams Family* television series

Ret Turner '50, winner of 5 Emmy Awards and nominated 23 times for his costume designs from 1971-1997

Want to Support the Stetson Theatre Arts Program?

Stover Theatre Arts Supporting Cast is a membership group of patrons comprising alumni, parents, students, and neighbors who recognize that financial support is the key to the success of Stetson's Theatre Arts Program. Financial assistance enables the faculty, students and overall program to remain competitive with theatre departments of other universities. This fund is named to honor the legacy of Irving B. Stover, a Stetson theatre arts faculty member for more than 50 years. By all accounts, Dr. Stover was a much-beloved teacher, devoted to the achievement of the theatre program and production season. For more information about making a contribution to this fund, please contact Dr. Nathan Wolek, Chair of the Department of Creative Arts.

THEATRE ARTS

Nathan Wolek, PhD	Creative Arts Department Chair
Trevin Cooper, MFA	Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts
Julie Schmitt, PhD	Professor of Theatre Arts
Krista Franco, MFA	Associate Professor of Theatre Arts & Program Coordinator
Patrick Pieri, BA	Technical Director
Cheryl Orr, BA	Costume Designer
Laura Glander, BA	Administrative Specialist

STETSON UNIVERSITY

Christopher Roellke, PhD	President of Stetson University
Elizabeth Skomp, PhD	Executive Vice President & Provost
Kyle Longest, PhD	Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
Washington Garcia, DMA	Dean of the School of Music
Yiorgos Bakamitsos, PhD	Dean of the School of Business
Katy Webb, MLIS, MA	Dean of DuPont-Ball Library
Benjamin Barros, JD	Dean of the College of Law