 Written by River von Waldron  
Produced by Dr. Cecilia Aragon & Dr. Patrick Konesko  
Directed by Emilygrace Piel

a look into the messy lives of lesbian farmers Clove and B as they attempt to find more life amongst their survival...

SEPT 23 & 24, 7:30PM  
Buchanan Center Thrust Theatre

TICKETS $5 at 307-766-666  
or www.tix.com/ticket-sales/uwyo/6984
**Antigone**

Written by Jean Anouilh (from Antigone by Sophocles)
Translated by Robertson Dean
Adapted /Co-directed by Matthew Greenberg
Co-Directed by Landee Lockhart

Set at the base of the Snowy Range in 1969 Wyoming, this adaptation of ANTIGONE, asks: What does it mean to be visible? When Antigone breaks the law by burying her brother, who has died in the war, everyone must face the consequences. Themes of power, fate, rule-of-law, autonomy, feminism, and equality arise in the quest for truth, love and justice, and invite us to consider how we justify our actions in pursuit of equality today.

**OCT 19-22 7:30PM**
**OCT 23, 2:00PM**
Buchanan Center Main Stage

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**The Nutcracker**

Choreographed by Juliana Freude, Cat Kamrath, Margaret Wilson, & Aaron Wood (honoring Marsha Knight)
Conducted by Dr. Michael Griffith
Music by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

This classic ballet about a young girl who receives a nutcracker for Christmas that spurs her fantastical dream is a favorite family tradition. Act I stays true to Marsha Knight’s vision and is set in the Edward Ivinson family home in 1890’s Laramie. Act II is reimagined, with original choreography that awakens Clara’s assorted dreamlands (all ages welcome).

**DEC 8-10, 7:30PM**
**DEC 11, 2:00PM**
Arts & Sciences Auditorium
SYNOPSIS
What happens when you need to get to the hospital for a severed thumb but you don't have a car 'cause it's too expensive and you can't get an ambulance 'cause it's too expensive but you ALSO can't get a driver 'cause it's too expensive? You hitchhike, of course. And what do you get when you hitchhike without a thumb? Well, you get coop. coop, colloquially known as "the lesbian chicken play," takes a look into the messy lives of lesbian farmers, Clove and B. Facing addiction, financial insecurity, and queer elders that don't know they're queer elders, these lesbians attempt to find more life amongst their survival.

DIRECTOR’S NOTE
It has been my honor and privilege to be part of a dynamic theatre diversity project, WYOpen Stages, that offers space for all of us to express sexuality, individuality, and openly embrace differences.
I love lesbians, and I love being a lesbian! And, I am very thankful to River von Waldron for telling a story about lesbians where their identities are pillars of their lives and points of joy and connection.
coop may be a story about lesbians and chickens, but it also creates an empowering narrative about people finding community. coop is about choosing love and support even when it seems that there are easier paths to traverse. coop helps us remember that the hard times are worth the joy we might find in them. All the characters in coop remind me of the inherited communities that lesbians create to connect with each other, and the beauty within them.
I hope you enjoy this story about queer joy and about creating space to flourish (rather than just survive) as much as I have.

--Emilygrace Piel
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks go to Jason and Jenefer Pasqua, Mac Marino, Jim Osborn and the Equal Opportunity Report and Response Team, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Rainbow Resource Center, Tyler Wolfgang, Melanie Vigil, Matthew Greenberg, Landee Lockhart, the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Toi Geil, Director of the UW Counseling Center, and Studio Coe.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

“Every community owes its existence and vitality to generations from around the world who contributed their hopes, dreams, and energy to making the history that led to this moment. Some were brought here against their will, some were drawn to leave their distant homes in hope of a better life, and some have lived on this land for more generations than can be counted. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth.” (USDAC: Honor Native Land Guide)

“We acknowledge that the University of Wyoming occupies the ancestral and traditional lands of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow, and Shoshone Indigenous peoples along with other Native tribes who call the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain region home. We wish to . . . pay our respects to their elders past and present. We recognize, support, and advocate alongside Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and with those forcibly removed from their Homelands.” (ASUW Senate Bill 2699)

NOTICE: coop: the lesbian chicken play contains depictions of addiction, descriptions of physical violence, descriptions of intimacy and sexual situations, discussion of suicidal ideation, discussion of homophobia, and strong language.
CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTOR ..............................................................................Emilygrace Piel*
PRODUCERS Dr. Cecelia J. Aragon, Dr. Patrick Konesko
DRAMATURG ...............................................................Jedediah Huntzinger*
LIGHTING DESIGNER .............................................................Jason Banks
PRODUCTION MANAGER .........................................................Andrew Lia
STAGE MANAGER April Sandoval-Eaton*

*Students

CAST

CLOVE..........................................................................................Brianna Perry
B ........................................................................................................Kayla Dabel
DOTTY ..................................................................................Karen Huntzinger
BARNYARDO ............................................................................Grant Dillivan
ANGELA ..............................................................Danielle Cover
OLLIE/SHARON ......................................................................Sav Buckendorf
BUTCHER ..........................................................................................Ivy Grover
SAM .................................................................................... Alexandra Castilleja
STAGE DIRECTIONS ..................................................................Allison Bates

PRODUCTION STAFF

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.........................................................Scott Tedmon-Jones
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR......................................Andrew Lia
SCENE SHOP FOREMAN & MASTER CARPENTER.............Don Turner
MASTER ELECTRICIAN .............................................................Amanda Lydon
VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS MAIN OFFICE ..............Jack Chapman, Seth Holmquist, Eric Smith
PUBLICITY AND FINE ARTS COORDINATOR............Kathy Kirkaldie
PROGRAM COORDINATOR/FA OUTREACH .....................Lexis Hamilton
BOX OFFICE ..........Heather Craig, Lauren Regnell, Madylin Gooch, Racheal Pinkham, Anna Johnston, Alex Huss, Bailey Lankford, Jatin Cranmore

PRODUCTION CREW

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER ..................................................Lilian Feist
USHERS .............................................................................. Duncan Emmons, Melissa Gleason
BIOGRAPHIES

**DR. CECILIA ARAGÓN** (Producer) is originally from Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dr. Aragón received her Ph.D. at Arizona State University. She is a Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance and Latina/o Studies Program in the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice at the University of Wyoming, in Laramie, WY. Since 2015, Dr. Aragón was appointed to serve as the Executive Director of the Wyoming Latina Youth Center and serves as a member of Leadership Wyoming. She currently serves as Producer of WYOpen Stages. She is currently working on her next book entitled, *Performing the Myths of Billy the Kid-El Bilito, “El querido”—Cultural Politics in Folk Songs, Folk Celebrations, and Contemporary Dramas,* for the University of New Mexico Press. Aragón is the recipient of the Jason Thompson Diversity Award and was recently appointed to the National Endowment for the Arts national review board in Washington, D.C.

**JEDEDIAH HUNTZINGER** (Dramaturg) is serving as dramaturg for the first time for coop! A dramaturg helps the rest of the crew understand what elements of the play are about and why they are important to the play itself. Jed is a senior at UW and is currently getting his BFA in Theatre Performance. Most recently he was in Snowy Range Summer Theatre's production of MURDERERS.

**RIVER VON WALDRON** (Playwright) (they/them) is an actor, singer, playwright, composer, and musician all wrapped up in one. They're currently based in Philadelphia, PA. Select credits: GHOST TOWN: The Musical (Book, Lyrics, Music) - Polyphone Festival of New and Emerging Musicals; THREE SCORPIONS WALK INTO A BAR (Playwright) - StageQ's CapitalQ New Play Festival. Training: The University of the Arts - BFA in Musical Theatre. They would love to thank WYOpen Stages for bringing coop: the lesbian chicken play to the stage! Check out their website www.ohitsbetterthisway.com to learn more about their artistry.

**EMILYGRACE PIEL** (Director) is a graduate of the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas and Laramie County Community College and will graduate from the University of Wyoming with her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design & Tech Management with a focus in stage management this December. She directed coop as part of her ongoing internship with the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and the University's Theatre and Dance Department. She'd like to thank CC Aragón and the rest of the theatre and dance faculty for their support during her time as a student here, her family, and her super cool wife Kel Pendergrass.

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ALLISON BATES (Stage Directions) is an incoming freshman at the University of Wyoming. She is a psychology major with a love and passion for theatre and also chickens. Allison says: “This one's name is Goldy, and I miss her. She was my gardening buddy in my hometown of Star Valley, Wyoming. She helped me dig up the roots in exchange for worms.”

SAV BUCKENDORF (Ollie/Sharon) is so excited to be a part of this amazing show and is so happy that you could join us for it! Sav loves theater and wants to graduate at the University of Wyoming with a BA in Theater. Once they graduate from UW, they plan on moving back to Greeley Colorado to start studying for an education degree and start teaching the joy of theater for the young minded. Sav hopes that you enjoy the show and have an amazing evening!

ALEXANDRA CASTILLEJA (Sam) has been doing theatre for six years. She went to LCCC for theatre. Alexandra is not a student at UW but is very excited to be a part of coop and can’t wait to perform with such a wonderful cast and crew!

LILY FEIST (Asst. Stage Manager) is a senior at the University of Wyoming pursuing a BFA in Theatre Performance and a BS in Business Management. This is her first time serving as an assistant stage manager, and she could not have asked for a better team to work with. She would like to thank her family for always supporting her in everything she does.

APRIL SANDOVAL-EATON (Stage Manager) is a 23-year-old student, her favorite color is green, and she likes all animals though her favorite is her cats. Her focus is in costumes and make up, though she has done some drawing and photography. Her inspiration comes from the love of her family and friends and her wanting to make the world into a better place by spreading joy though theatre.

DANIELLE COVER (Angela) is a Professor of Law. She has run a small legal aid office out of the College since 2014, never once stressing about how students practice on her license. She also teaches a variety of classes under an umbrella of topics she fondly calls “Lawyering Skills for Humans.” She is and always has been fascinated by the number of out of work actors who turn to lawyering for their dramatic expression.
IVY GROVER (Butcher) grew up on a farm on Heart Mountain near Powell, WY, and is now studying a double major of Theatre Performance and Theatre Design/Tech with a concentration in Costume Design and a minor in Creative Writing. Years of working on the land and raising animals taught her that true quality is born through hard work and a passion for what she does. Grover’s love of acting showed itself early, and she's excited to further her skill and knowledge at the University of Wyoming.

GRANT DILLIVAN (Barnymaord) is an undergraduate student at UW and will earn his bachelor’s degrees in both Psychology and Criminal Justice in May 2024. He was involved in theater all throughout high school and has starred in stage performances of EXIT THE BODY, CLUE, ROCK OF AGES, NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, and LEGALLY BLONDE. He enjoys reading, hiking, playing tennis, and playing video games in his free time. He would like to thank Emilygrace Piel for casting him in as well as directing coop, and the reader for making it through this entire bio.

KAYLA DABEL (B) was born and raised in Jackson, WY. She got into the arts through dance at first by performing in SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS with Dancer’s Workshop, followed by theatre in high school. From there, she developed her passion for film and directing. She wrote, produced, and directed her first film MOTHER in August 2022, which is due to be released in early November 2022! She plans to continue her pursuit of the arts in Los Angeles after graduating!

KAREN HUNTZINGER (Dotty) is onstage for the first time in coop: the lesbian chicken play! While her son and nephew are performers, (theater and music respectively) coop will be the first time she is the one performing! Karen spends most of her time working with adults with disabilities in Cheyenne, WY. She is a big supporter of the LGBTQIA+ community, and although a little nervous to be stepping out of her comfort zone, beyond excited. Enjoy the show!

KARIANN PERRY (Clove) (she/her/hers) is an actor, singer, and costume designer currently based in Laramie, WY. She is a senior studying Acting Performance and Costume Design who will graduate with her BFA Spring 2023. You have seen her most recently in the Snowy Range Summer Theatre production of ALL IN THE TIMING, as “Meg” in the Relative Theatrics staged reading of LITTLE WOMEN, and in the student written song-cycle OUR LIVES IN SONG. She is so excited to showcase LGBTQIA+ stories that celebrate the love within the community and is thankful for the support of her friends and family.