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Wichita State University School of Performing Arts
Wichita, KS

Wichita State University School of Performing Arts
Musical Theatre Incubator Program presents

The Fox Sisters

Based on a True Story

Sept. 29- Oct. 1
@ 7:30pm
Welsbacher Theater

Tickets: \$10

PG-13

Reference to
physical, sexual,
and alcohol abuse

Funded by the
Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation

Music by Anthony De Angelis
Lyrics by Christyn Budzyna
Book by Jessica Penzias



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Wichita State University School of Performing Arts
Welsbacher Theatre

PRESENTS

THE FOX SISTERS

Music by

Anthony De Angelis

Lyrics by

Christyn Budzyna

Book by

Jessica Penzias

with

Sophie Pickett
Mckenna Lewis
Hayley Longacre
Alyssa Watson
Carter Stelting

Francie Robu
Catie Wolff
Crosby Dold
Elaine Watson
Ben Schwartz

Cat Sanders
Jonathan Banks
Lucas Shroyer
Jack Nichols
Christian Watkins

Stage Manager

Rae Oquendo

Music Director

Garrett Welch

Assistant Stage Manager

Kaete Mokrynski

Directed by

Richard Biever

Associate Director

Sophia Hillman



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

About the Production

First, it is such an honor to be a part of the Wichita State University School of Performing Arts. The faculty, staff, and students are superb, and it is a pleasure to direct a staged reading of *The Fox Sisters* as my first show at WSU.

The Fox Sisters was written by Jessica Penzias, Anthony De Angelis, and Christyn Budzyna, and I had the good pleasure of working with Anthony when I was music directing a production of *A New Brain* at Penn State University. Anthony was an undergraduate playing keyboard in the pit band.

Cut to more than ten years later, when Anthony contacted me about the possibility of producing a children's show they were writing for my theatre company in State College, PA. We did and it was extraordinarily successful. So much so, I asked the trio if they were working on anything else. The immediate response was *The Fox Sisters* and weirdly enough, I had heard of the siblings and knew vaguely what the subject might be like as a musical. I said I would be extremely interested. Cut to...the pandemic. COVID-19 put a reading of the show on hold until March of 2022. The authors attended that reading and revised the show based on what they heard and saw.

In the meantime, I was offered a position at Wichita State and talked a lot about the importance of doing new work. My colleague Amy Baker Schwiethale was fully supportive as was Director of the School of Performing Arts, Cheyla Clawson Chandler. In fact, a new fund was set up for the development of new works called the Musical Theatre Incubator Program, funded by the Jo Zakas Legacy Foundation. This means *The Fox Sisters* is the first of many new shows that will be developed at Wichita State. Lots to be grateful for!

The fact that you are here to see this show means you are a part of the development process. Musicals cannot be developed in a vacuum. They must be seen, and your reactions help guide the authors in shaping the material.

Thank you for your support of new musicals!

Gratefully,
Richard Biever, Director
Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Richard Biever (*Director*) is beyond thrilled to join the amazing faculty at WSU as Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre. And he is overjoyed to be directing his first show here. He is especially grateful for the new Musical Theatre Incubator Program, which provides funds to work on a new musical every year. Prior to moving to Wichita in early August, Rich and his family were in State College, PA, where he was Assistant Teaching Professor of Graduate Directing and Musical Theatre at Penn State. He also had his own professional theatre company called FUSE Productions, where he directed many shows. Among his favorites were *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Assassins*, *Parade*, *Camelot*, and *Fun Home*. He has also directed off-Broadway and at 54 Below in NYC. His music direction credits include the national and international tours of *Little Shop of Horrors* and the European tour of *West Side Story*. His wife Heidi is helping to develop a musical theatre education program for Music Theatre Wichita. They have three children: Marshall, a musician in Nashville, Madeline, and Olivia, both studying theatre at WSU.

CAST AND SONGS LIST

Cast

Katie Fox	Francie Robu
Maggie Fox	Catie Wolff
Mrs. Fox	Elaine Watson
Leah Fox	Crosby Dold
Elisha Kane	Ben Schwartz
Katie (u/s), Ensemble	Sophie Pickett
Maggie (u/s), Ensemble	Mckenna Lewis
Mrs. Fox (u/s), Ensemble	Alyssa Watson
Leah (u/s), Ensemble	Hayley Longacre
Elisha (u/s), Ensemble	Carter Stelling
Ensemble	Jonathan Banks, Cat Sanders, Lucas Shroyer, Jack Nichols, Christian Watkins

Songs

"Watch Them"	Leah, Ensemble
"Would You Believe"	Maggie
"There's Nothing There"	Mrs. Fox
"God's Honest Truth"	Ensemble
"The Way They Look At Me"	Katie
"Make A Living"	Leah
"Remarkable"	Katie, Maggie, Ensemble
"Leah The Living"	Maggie and Katie
"Would You Believe (Reprise)"	Katie and Maggie
"Watch Them (Reprise)"	Leah
"Leave It All Behind"	Elisha and Maggie
"Dark Seance"	Katie, Maggie, Ensemble
"Make A Living (Reprise)"	Leah
"Never Left My Mind"	Maggie and Elisha
"Leave It All Behind (Reprise)"	Maggie
"For My Sister"	Maggie
"Have Faith In Me"	Katie and Ensemble
"You Will Remain"	Ensemble

The Fox Sisters is performed without an intermission. The run time is approximately 90 minutes.

CREW WHO'S WHO



Jonathan Banks

Jonathan Banks (Ensemble) is elated to be making his musical theatre debut at Wichita State University! Previous credits include *Descendants the Musical* (Wichita Heights High), *The Little Mermaid* (CYTheatre), and *Twelfth Night* (Music Theatre Wichita). Pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Musical Theatre, Jonathan is a member of Shockappella and the Black Student Union. Jonathan's mission statement reads: "As an artist, I believe it is my responsibility to inspire, aspire, and evoke desire in anyone who views artwork!"



Crosby Dold

Crosby Dold (Leah Fox) is a senior pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Theatre Performance from Lawrence, Kansas. They were previously Emerson in *Voices in the Void* at Wichita State University. Other roles include Oberon in *Midsummers Night's Dream*, Fantine in *Les Miserable*, Bet in *Oliver*, and Ensemble in *Mamma Mia*. They would love to thank their family and Injoy Fountain for always believing in them.



Sophia Hillman

Sophia Hillman (Associate Director) is overjoyed to be working on *The Fox Sisters*. She is a Musical Theatre major with a minor in Dance here at Wichita State University. She also serves as the School of Performing Arts Student Assistant. Sophia was most recently seen on stage performing *Twelfth Night* (Music Theatre Wichita), *The Color Purple* (Roxy's Downtown), and *The Wedding Singer* (The Crown Arts Collaborative). She hopes you enjoy the show! To keep up with Sophia, follow her Instagram: [@sophiahillman7725](https://www.instagram.com/sophiahillman7725)



Mckenna Lewis

Mckenna Lewis (Ensemble/Maggie understudy) is thrilled to be returning to the Wichita State University stage! She is a junior Musical Theatre major and Dance minor. Her recent credits include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Empty Space), and *Keepers of the Flame* (WSU). She would like to thank her mentors, family, and friends for their support! Enjoy the show!

CREW WHO'S WHO



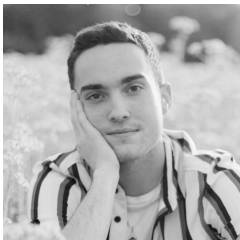
Hayley Longacre

Hayley Longacre (Ensemble/Leah understudy) is a transfer student from Tulsa Community College and is a junior. Back in Tulsa, she was a part of several productions such as *Puffs* (Megan Jones) and *Fun Home* (Helen Bechdel). Hayley is excited to have *The Fox Sisters* be her first production with Wichita State University's Performing Arts Department.



Kaete Mokrynski

Kaete Mokrynski (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to be stage managing for the first time with the performing arts department. Kaete is from northern Bergen County, New Jersey. Previous credits include Ensemble/Assistant Dance Captain in *Rent* (Theatre Row NYC), Mary Sunshine/featured dancer in *Chicago* (A Class Act NY youth theatre company), and #2 in *The Wolves* (Bergen Community College theatre department). Kaete wants to wish the entire cast and crew good luck with *The Fox Sisters*.



Jack Nichols

Jack Nichols (Ensemble) is ecstatic to be making their Wichita State University debut. Before attending WSU, they performed in shows like *Shrek* (Kirkwood Theater Guild), *How to Succeed in Business* (Act Two Theater), and *Gentlemen's Guide to Love and Murder* (Vivre Theater). Jack is a freshman pursuing a BA in Vocal Performance and is studying in Michael Sylvester's voice studio. Jack's mission is to inspire others and spread joy and positivity through his performing. You can find him on Instagram @jack_nichols_

Rae Oquendo

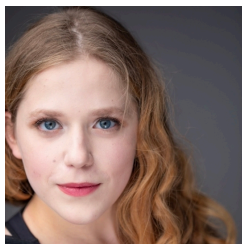
Rae Oquendo (Stage Manager) is excited to be working on Wichita State University's musical theatre staged reading of *The Fox Sisters*. Previous credits include Stage Manager of *Go Like Saints* (WSU) and serving as a Wig and Makeup Assistant for Music Theatre Wichita's 2022 Summer Season. Rae is a senior, graduating this fall with a BA in Performing Arts-Theatre and a minor in Management. Rae's mission is to start their own production company with the goal of becoming an educational company.

CREW WHO'S WHO



Sophie Pickett

Sophie Pickett (Ensemble/Lily/Katie understudy) is so excited to be a part of this brand new musical! Sophie is a junior at Wichita State University, credits include (*Keepers of the Flame*) and (*The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*). Sophie would like to thank her family and her cast of friends for making this show so special. Come catch her in *The Crown Holiday Spectacular* at The Crown Uptown Theater and *Pippin* here at WSU later this season! @sophiagpickett



Francie Robu

Francie Robu (Katie Fox) is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform with Wichita State University. She was most recently seen in *Noises Off* (Newton Community Theatre), *Urinetown* (Newton High School), and *David and Lisa* (Newton High School). Francie is a Sophomore at WSU and is majoring in Musical Theatre and English Lit.



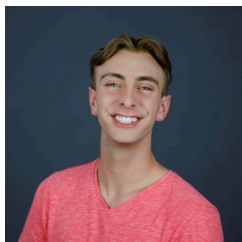
Cat Sanders

Cat Sanders (Ensemble) is so incredibly excited for their first show with Wichita State University! Previous shows include *Little Women*, *She Kills Monsters*, and *Singing in the Rain*, all with Shawnee Mission Northwest High School. Cat is pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Musical Theatre with a minor in Creative Writing.



Ben Schwartz

Ben Schwartz (*Elisha*) is thrilled to be making his Wichita State University theatre debut. Previous credits include *Songs for a New World* (St. Olaf College), *Bright Star* (Northfield Arts Guild), and *Rent* (Theatre Tulsa). Ben is a 3rd-year transfer pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Musical Theatre and is excited to be a part of the WSU community.



Lucas Shroyer

Lucas Shroyer (Ensemble) is performing with Wichita State University for the first time in *The Fox Sisters*. He is a first-year Music Theater major and Dance minor after a year at Hutchinson Community College. His favorite previous productions have been *Peter & the Starcatcher* (Hutchinson FCT), *Me and My Girl* (Sterling Community Theater), and *Godspell* (Buhler High School).

CREW WHO'S WHO



Carter Stelting

Carter B Stelting (Ensemble/Elisha understudy) is performing his first show here at Wichita State University. He is studying musical theatre and vocal performance. He has participated in theatre regionally, and professionally in Kansas City. Carter also sings with Shockappella as the vocal percussionist & is actively on the cheerleading team here at WSU. Carter gives God all the glory.



Christian Watkins

Christian Watkins (Ensemble) is making his Wichita State University theatre debut. Previous credits include *The Pajama Game* (Butler), *Sherwood* (Butler), and *A Christmas Carol* (Butler). Christian is a junior pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Musical Theatre. Christian's artistic mission is "to bring entertainment to audiences & inspire others."



Alyssa Watson

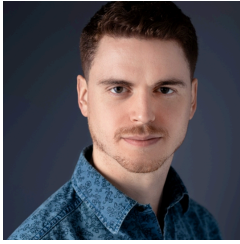
Alyssa Watson (Ensemble/Mrs. Fox understudy) is making her Wichita State University theatre debut. Some of her favorite shows she has been in are *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Shawnee Mission West), *The Crucible* (SMW), and *A Year With Frog and Toad* (Culture House). Alyssa is a freshman pursuing a BFA in Performing Arts-Musical Theatre and a minor in film.



Elaine Watson

Elaine Watson (Mrs. Fox) is excited to return to a Wichita State University stage. Previous credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (WSU Empty Space), *Heathers* (Roxy's Downtown), and *Half Time Gotta Dance* (Shawnee Mission Theatre In The Park). Elaine is a second-year student studying musical theatre and vocal music ed. She aims for human connection, fun stories to tell, and beautiful art. Enjoy the show!

CREW WHO'S WHO



Garrett Welch

Garrett Welch (Music Director) is honored to be a part of the Wichita State University production of this brand new musical. Recent credits as Music Director include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* with WSU Empty Space Theatre, *Pippin* at Oklahoma City University, and this summer appeared as Oscar in *42nd Street* at Music Theatre Wichita. Garrett is a graduate of Wichita State and Oklahoma City University. Garrett's mission is to find beauty and truth every day, and finds them in the arts.



Catie Wolff

Catie Wolff (Maggie Fox) is so excited to be taking the stage again, for her final year at Wichita State University. Previous credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (WSU Empty Space), *Keepers of the Flame* (WSU), and *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer* (The Coterie Theatre). Catch her at her Senior Capstone this November 10-11 at 7 PM in this exact same building. Follow her on Instagram @catie.Wolff

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We apologize in advance for any omission or errors in this list. Please bring corrections to the attention of Ann Marie Siegarth at annmarie.siegarth@wichita.edu or 316-978-3945. Listings may shift from one program to another depending on the timing and receipt of gifts.

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