

APPENDIX B

SPU Theatre Season Chronology 1951–2022

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* Denotes contents available in the SPU Theatre Archives
° Denotes photos that are digitized on SmugMug

Before SPU Theatre was given departmental status, the following plays were produced as a sort of “final project” for classes within the Speech Department:

1951–61

The Neighbors, by Zona Gale, 1951–52
The Hoosier Schoolmaster, by Edward Eggleston, 1952–53
One Foot in Heaven, by Hartzell Spence, adapted by Anne Coulter Martens
Produced by Speech 305, March 12, 1954
Magnificent Obsession, Homecoming 1955
Room For One More, by William Davidson, based on Anna Perrott Rose Wright
Produced by Speech 305, March 8–9, 1956
Twelve Angry Women, by Sherman L. Sergel, based on Reginald Rose
Directed by Paul F.L. Rosser, 1957
Melody, by Kent Prell
Directed by Paul F.L. Rosser, March 7, 1958
Charley’s Aunt, by Brandon Thomas
Produced by Speech 305, directed by Paul F.L. Rosser, March 13–14, 1959
Love Is Eternal, by Ruth Sergel, based on Irving Stone, 1960
The Robe, adapted by John McGreevey, based on Lloyd C. Douglas
Directed by M. Elmer Soden, March 10–11, 1961

Other information in the SPU Theatre Archives refers to the following productions, which were likely produced by Cascade College (Portland, OR) before its closure and merger into Seattle Pacific College in 1969. There is a general lack of information on these productions, which is why some do not list dates or playwrights:

Who’s Crazy Now?, by Gerald Bell
Whatever Ye Sow, by Mary S. Hitchcock
A Man Called Peter, adapted by John McGreevey, based on Catherine Marshall
The Lost Elevator, by Percival Wilde
The Robe, adapted by John McGreevey, based on Lloyd C. Douglas

ONE-ACT PLAYS:

Mud Walls, by Hugh Moran
Pink For Proposals, by Dorothy C. Allan
Blessed Are They, by Walter E. Butts, Jr.
February 25–26, 1955

The Hoosier Schoolmaster, by Edward Eggleston, 1956
Cry, the Beloved Country, by Felicia Komai, based on Alan Paton, 1956
The Little Minister, adapted by Roland Fernand, based on James M. Barrie, 1957
The Fool, by Channing Pollock,¹ 1959
Gillian
The Servant in the House, by Charles Rann Kennedy
White Line

Departmental Status 1961

SPU Theatre (then known as the “Dramatic Arts Track” of the Department of Speech) gained departmental status in 1961 with the hiring of James Chapman the previous year. With his arrival, three plays were produced a year (one a quarter) as the “Dramatic Arts” continued to grow, eventually becoming the Theatre Department as it stands today.

¹ Original notes stated that this was *The Fool*, by Edward Bond; however, this was not published until 1975. Pollock’s *The Fool* is a religious drama and follows the previous trend of shows with large cast sizes.

1961–62	<p><i>A Man Called Peter</i>, adapted by John McGreevey, based on Catherine Marshall</p> <p>* <i>The Cup of Trembling</i>, by Elizabeth Berryhill Directed by James Chapman Fall Quarter, 1961</p> <p>* <i>The Curious Savage</i>, by John Patrick Directed by James Chapman May 25–26, 1962</p>
1962–63	<p>* <i>Everyman</i>, by Anonymous & <i>Christ in the Concrete City</i>, by Philip W. Turner Directed by James Chapman November 30–December 1, 1962</p> <p>* <i>Cry, the Beloved Country</i>, by Felicia Komai, based on Alan Paton Directed by James Chapman March 8–9, 1963</p> <p>* <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>, by William Shakespeare Directed by James Chapman May 24–25, 1963</p>
1963–64	<p>* <i>The Lark</i>, by Jean Anouilh Directed by James Chapman November 21–23, 1963</p> <p>* OPERA</p> <p><i>Dido and Aeneas</i>, by Henry Purcell, libretto by Nahum Tate Directed James Chapman, Music Direction by Carl Reed February 28–29, 1964</p> <p>* <i>The Miracle Worker</i>, by William Gibson Directed by James Chapman March 12–14, 1964</p> <p>* <i>Many Moons</i>, adapted by Charlotte Chorpenning, based on James Thurber Directed by Virginia Hart May 8–9, 1964</p> <p>* <i>Only an Orphan Girl</i>, by Henning Nelms Directed by James Chapman May 22–23, 28–30, 1964</p>
1964–65	<p>* <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>, by William Shakespeare Directed by James Chapman November 19–21, 1964</p>
1965–66	<p>* <i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i>, by Thornton Wilder Directed by James Chapman November 18–20, 23, 1965</p> <p>* <i>The Glass Menagerie</i>, by Tennessee Williams Directed by James Chapman March 3, 5, 10–12, 1966</p>
1966–67	<p>* <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>, by William Shakespeare Directed by James Chapman November 17–19, 21–22, 1966</p> <p>* <i>Puss in Boots</i>, by Rowena Bennett (touring children's play) Directed by James Chapman December, 1966</p> <p>* ONE-ACT PLAYS</p> <p><i>The Happy Journey</i>, by Thornton Wilder</p> <p><i>It Should Happen to a Dog</i>, by Wolf Mankowitz</p> <p><i>The Bald Soprano</i>, by Eugène Ionesco Directed by James Chapman February 16–18, 1967</p>

- * **Brand**, by Henrik Ibsen, translation by James Forsyth
Directed by James Chapman
March 7–11, 1967
- * **The Fantasticks**, music by Harvey Schmidt, lyrics by Tom Jones
Directed by James Chapman, Musical Direction by Lyle Staley
May 19–20, 24–27, 1967
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- 1967–68
- * **A Company of Wayward Saints**, by George Herman
Directed by James Chapman
November 15–18, 1967
- * **The Reluctant Dragon**, adapted by Steven C. Anderson, based on Kenneth Grahame, music by Dana P. Rowe, lyrics by John Dempsey (touring children's play)
Directed by James Chapman
December, 1967
- * **The Investigation**, by Peter Weiss, translation by Jon Swan & Ulu Grosbard
Directed by Geraldine Hess
February 1–3, 1968
- * **Christ in the Concrete City**, by Philip W. Turner (Christian Drama Troupe)
Directed by Geraldine Hess
Spring, 1968
- * **Billy Budd**, by Louis O. Coxe & Robert Chapman, based on Herman Melville
Directed by James Chapman
March 6–9, 1968
- * **Carnival!**, book by Michael Stewart, music & lyrics by Bob Merrill, based on Helen Deutsch
Directed by James Chapman
May 22–25, 1968
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- 1968–69
- * **A Far Country**, by Henry Denker
Directed by James Chapman
November 20–23, 1968
- * **The Royal Hunt of the Sun**, by Peter Shaffer
Directed by James Chapman
February 15, 19–22, 1969
- * **Thurber Does His Thing**, original based on James Thurber material
Directed by James Chapman
Spring Quarter, 1969
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- 1969–70
- * **Twelfth Night**, by William Shakespeare
Directed by James Chapman
May, 1970
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- 1970–71
- * **Look Homeward, Angel**, adapted by Ketti Frings, based on Thomas Wolfe
Directed by George Scranton
November 19–21, 1970
- * **Trilogy & The Act and the Image**, by George Scranton
Directed by George Scranton
Winter Quarter, 1971
- The Merry Wives of Windsor**, by William Shakespeare
Directed by George Scranton
Spring Quarter, 1971
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- 1971–72
- Abraham and Isaac**, by Benjamin Britten
Directed by George Scranton
September, 1971
- * **Summertree**, by Ron Cowen
Directed by George Scranton
November 17–20, 1971
- * **A Sleep of Prisoners**, by Christopher Fry
Directed by George Scranton
March 1–4, 1972

	<p>* <i>The Servant of Two Masters</i>, by Carlo Goldoni Directed by George Scranton Spring Quarter, 1972</p>
1972–73	<p>* <i>The Roar of the Greasepaint – The Smell of the Crowd</i>, book, music, & lyrics Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley Directed by George Scranton, Music Direction by Lylburn T. Layer, Choreography by Michel Ingersol November, 1972</p> <p><i>Black Comedy</i>, by Peter Shaffer² Directed by George Scranton</p> <p><i>White Lies</i>, by Peter Shaffer Directed by Gerald Barron April 26–28, May 3–5, 1973</p>
1973–74	<p>* <i>You Can't Take It with You</i>, by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart³ Directed by George Scranton November 2–3, 9–10, 1973</p> <p>* <i>Where's Charley?</i>, book by George Abbott, music & lyrics by Frank Loesser Directed by James Chapman, Music Direction by Lylburn T. Layer, Choreography by Laura Nielson February 1–2, 7–9, 1974</p> <p><i>J.B.</i>, by Archibald MacLeish⁴ Directed by George Scranton April 5–6, 12–13, 1974</p>
1974–75	<p>Summer Arts Festival: <i>Les Romantiques</i>, by Edmond Rostand⁵ Directed by George Scranton</p> <p>* <i>Godspell</i>, book by John-Michael Tebelak, music & lyrics by Stephen Schwartz⁶ Directed by James Chapman August 9–10, 1974 (as part of the Jubilation Fine Arts Festival) October 4–5, 11–12, 1974</p> <p>* <i>The Miracle Worker</i>, by William Gibson Directed by James Chapman November 8–9, 14–16, 1974</p> <p>* <i>Man of La Mancha</i>, book by Dale Wasserman, music by Mitch Leigh, lyrics by Joe Darion Directed by James Chapman, Music Direction by Lylburn T. Layer, Choreography by Laura Nielson January 31, February 1, 6–8, 1975</p> <p>* <i>Tartuffe</i>, by Molière Directed by George Scranton April 18–19, 24–26, 1975</p>
1975–76	<p>* <i>Ah, Wilderness!</i>, by Eugene O'Neill Directed by James Chapman November 14–15, 20–22, 1975</p> <p>* <i>The Devil's Disciple</i>, by George Bernard Shaw Directed by James Chapman February 20–21, 26–28, 1976</p>

² This production replaced an intended production of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, for which there is a file of information in the George Scranton collection in the SPU Archives.

³ First program to state "Seattle Pacific College Drama" and not "Department of Speech."

⁴ Extensive materials available in the Scranton collection.

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⁶ Northwest premiere of *Godspell*; the professional Northwest premiere was held at ACT Theatre in September before being remounted at SPC in October.

	<p>* <i>A Company of Wayward Saints</i>, by George Herman Directed by George Scranton May 7–8, 13–15, 1976</p>
1976–77	<p>* <i>Reynard the Fox</i>, by Arthur Fauquez Directed by George Scranton November 12–13, 19–20, 1976</p> <p>* <i>Measure for Measure & As You Like It</i>, by William Shakespeare Directed by James Chapman <i>Measure for Measure</i> on February 11, 17, 19, & 25, <i>As You Like It</i> on February 12, 18, 24, & 26, 1977</p>
1977–78	<p>* <i>Screwtape</i>, by James Forsyth, based on C.S. Lewis Directed by James Chapman November 11–12, 17–19, 1977</p> <p>* <i>Ride! Ride!</i>, book & lyrics by Alan Thornhill, music by Penelope Thwaites⁷ Directed by George Scranton, Orchestrated & Conducted by Gary Fladmoe, Vocal Direction by Hubert Wash, Choreography by Dave Edwards February 10–11, 15–18, 22–25, 1978</p> <p>* <i>Ten Nights in a Bar-Room</i>, by William W. Pratt, based on Timothy Shay Arthur Directed by James Chapman May 12–13, 19–20, 1978</p>
1978–79	<p>* <i>Two by Two</i>, book by Peter Stone, music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Martin Charnin⁸ Directed by James Chapman, Music Direction by Gary Fladmoe November 10–11, 16–18, 1978</p> <p>* OPERA <i>Amahl and the Night Visitors</i>, by Gian Carlo Menotti Directed by Wadad Saba, Music Direction by Gary Fladmoe, Choreography by Melody Graham December 3–4, 1978</p> <p>* <i>The Skin of Our Teeth</i>, by Thornton Wilder Directed by James Chapman February 9–10, 16–17, 23–24, 1979</p> <p>* <i>Hansel and Gretel</i>, by Moses Goldberg & <i>Twice As Nice</i>, by Christine Parrent Directed by Gerald Baron & George Scranton Spring Quarter, 1979</p>
1979–80	<p>* <i>Ten Little Indians</i>,⁹ by Agatha Christie Directed by James Chapman November 9–10, 15–17, 1979</p> <p>* <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i>, by Oliver Goldsmith Directed by George Scranton February 15–16, 21–23, 28–29, March 1, 1980</p> <p><i>Our Town</i>, by Thornton Wilder¹⁰ Directed by James Chapman May 9–10, 15–17, 1980</p>

⁷ This production was a collaboration between Seattle Pacific and Taproot Theatre.

⁸ First program to state “School of Fine & Performing Arts.”

⁹ Contemporaneously known by this title; now produced as *And Then There Were None*.

¹⁰ There is nothing in the SPU Theatre Archive on this production, but elsewhere it is listed as part of Taproot Theatre’s 1980 season in residence at SPU, which included *Our Town*, *The Devil to Pay*, & *Sentenced to Life*.