



Seats in Theatre

"I regard the theater as a serious business, one that makes or should make man more human, which is to say, less alone."
-Arthur Miller.



Drama Masks

Friends and Family under the Spotlights

By Emily Coccovizzo

Loyola is all about building a community. Finding a group where you feel like you belong is really influential for your college experience. By participating in the Evergreen Players, you're joining a community that feels more like family than friends.

Here at Loyola, we do 4 to 5 shows per year. Two of them happen in the fall, one during the winter, and one in the spring. In years past, there was a fifth show added somewhere. The school year of 2021 to 2022, The Evergreen players put on the following shows: *Blue Stockings*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Last Summer at Blue Fish Cove*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Two of these shows are directed by current students. Bobby Dykeman directed *Murder on the Orient Express*, the show that got me involved with the Evergreen Players so I hold it very near and dear to my heart. And Nez Blaho, who directed *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*. I also worked in this show which is also very special to me. The reason we have two student directors is because we have two organizations here at Loyola, both equally important, but special in their own way. They are the Poison Cup Players (PCP) and Spotlight.

The Poison Cup Players do the fall drama—this year it was Bobby's *Murder on the Orient Express*. This is the show that most first years get involved in. Whether it's cast or crew, this group of lovable people ropes you in to the point that you can't leave. Besides building a community, we also build skills.

We encourage people to partake in both acting and behind the scenes. For example, I gained the most backstage experiences in many different fields from this year alone. I came to Loyola with skills in special effects and makeup, and after I worked on a few shows here at Loyola, I was called on to be The Costuming Manager for an outside school. This group helps students transition from high school Theater to Collegiate Theater as well as just helps you transition from high school to college life.

The second group, Spotlight, really makes this group family. For Spotlight, players who wish to do so will come back for a thing we like to call – wait for it – Spotlight Week. Although we sacrifice a week of our winter break, you come back and put on a show. It's just a week of people spending 15 hours a day together doing what they love. Some of my best friendships came from coming back for Spotlight Week. Not only is this week about building relationships, it is also about giving back. All the proceeds of the productions are donated to a charity of the Student Directors choice that goes with the theme of the show. Our Director, Nez, decided to do *Last Summer at Bluefish Cove*, which is a show about lesbian couples living on a beach for the summer. Because of this, all the profits from this show were donated to [Trevor Project](#), an organization that helps LGBTQ+ youth.

This is the week the life long friendships are built. I can honestly say, although I knew both of my best friends before this week, we grew so close I do not think this bond between the three of us will ever break. My birthday was this week;

it just so happened to line up this way. My mom, who has never spent my birthday way from me, came down for the day and with my favorite birthday cake—red velvet—that read “happy 19th birthday” in green frosting. She told me to share it with my friends, and that is exactly what I did. My two friends and I sat on the floor in one of our dorms eating this cake and watching movies all night. We did not care that we had to work all day tomorrow; all we cared about was the memories we were making.

We all knew each other at this point, but it was not until this moment we knew truly who we are. These are memories we still look back on and just admire. The number of times we all say, “I wish it was spotlight week,” is just too many to count. We trade in a week of our winter break but gain so much more.

Loyola's Theater Department also has major and minor programs for students to study. I am a double major in Forensic Studies and History with a minor in Theater. The programs here teach students all aspects of theater, not just the on-stage part of the deal. With help from the wonderful professors and peers, students leave Loyola ready to tackle the performing arts industry. If you would like to learn more about Theater here at Loyola, [visit this site](#).

You'll find wonderful things to research and learn about our department on this site. For example, [this video](#) which shows you many current and past students talking about their experiences.

I would like to extend my contact information to any incoming students coming to Loyola in the Fall. If you would like to get connected to the Theater Department or have any more questions, you are welcome to email me. Even if I do not have the answers, I will try to get you in contact with someone who does. Thank you for reading. Please reach out if you have any questions or just want to start meeting our crazy and loving family and friends under the spotlight.

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The “Fish Bowl,” a popular place to hang out



McManus Theater



Actors rehearsing

*All the world's a
stage, And all the
men and women
merely players; They
have their exits and
their entrances, And
one man in his time
plays many parts.*

- [William Shakespeare](#)



Loyola's Costume Closet