

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS



Paradise

LOST

ADAPTED BY *Erin Shields*

An adaptation of John Milton's epic tale

DIRECTED BY DEBBIE SWANN

APR. 25–MAY 4, 2025



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR:





The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival™, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Hilton Worldwide; and Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

Education and related artistic programs are made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theatre education program are to identify and promote quality in college level theatre production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theatre department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theatres across the nation.

PARADISE LOST

BY ERIN SHIELDS

AN ADAPTATION OF JOHN MILTON'S EPIC TALE

DIRECTOR Debbie Swann

FIGHT CHOREGRAPHER Sabastian Wolfe

SCENIC DESIGNER Josie Karet

LIGHTING DESIGNER Katherine Barr

COSTUME DESIGNER Chloe Martin

SOUND DESIGNER Joshua Moore

PROPS DESIGNER Libby Williams

PROJECTIONS DESIGNER Jake Mosier

STAGE MANAGER Caelum Janski

CAST

Hannah Bonansinga Urania, Mommon and Sin U/S

Jake Braun Death, Angel Chorus, Ithuriel U/S

Darren Cull God the Father

Charlotte Daysh Eve

Eliza Domingos Uriel, Beelzebub and Astoreth U/S

Ashley LeCompte Astaroth, Angel Chorus, Uriel U/S

Vincent Liebchen Belial, Angel Chorus, Raphael U/S

Anh Nguyen Michael, God the Father U/S

Jordan Pena Adam

DeChi Peterson God the Son, Adam U/S, Co-Fight Captain

Josephine Snowden Zephon, Eve U/S

Tessa Snyder Beelzebub, Gabriel U/S, Co-Fight Captain

Jacob Stoner Raphael, Belial and Moloch U/S

Ryan Terry Ithuriel, God the Son U/S

India Thompson Gabriel, Satan U/S

Kaitlin Thompson-Highsmith Satan

Aubree Vecellio Sin, Angel Chorus, Zephon U/S

Aidan Wall Moloch, Angel Chorus, Michael U/S

Caylin West Mammon, Angel Chorus, Urania and Death U/S

Featuring — **Caden Beetch, Luna Province, Liberty Province,**

Maverick Province, Lily Woodcock

DIRECTOR NOTE

Tackling stories of origin can be daunting even though it is instinctual. For millennia, creation stories have helped people analyze who we are, why we are, and what the implications for the future are. All over the world there exist ancient stories of the first man and/or the first woman created by the god(s). As is the case with any story rooted in oral tradition, the details changed and fractured as people migrated and expanded, taking their traditions and beliefs with them. Stories adapted to align with the geographic, political, and social beliefs of the evolving societies.

The earliest account of Adam, Eve, and a serpent in the Garden of Eden dates as far back as 950 C BCE, though the first *written account* appears another 500-600 years later in Genesis 2-3. The story would continue to evolve even after its appearance in the Torah. For example, many people do not realize that the devil is not in the original text. In fact, the word “satan” in Hebrew means “adversary” rather than a proper noun for the devil. Yet by the time Jesus of Nazareth was born, the idea of Satan was well established and would shape early Christian theology. When the Quran was written in 7th C CE, Satan was an established character in the Abrahamic Creation Story, jealous of God’s favoritism of Adam and Eve. Through the Middle Ages, imaginative speculation about the Garden of Eden and “the fall” continued in sermons, paintings and sculptures, plays, and literature. By the time Englishman John Milton (1608-1674) wrote his famous poem, *Paradise Lost*, it was widely accepted that a bitter, rejected Satan took the form of a serpent to infiltrate Eden and bring about humanity’s downfall. Milton’s account had other additions too, including the appearance of Jesus in the Garden, a detail not found in the earlier Jewish or Islamic versions of story.

The story just keeps changing. In the version written by Erin Shields presented for you today, Satan is a woman. How does this change the story? I am proud to close our 2024-2025 season with what a colleague called “the original fan fiction.” I love thinking about this story in this way because I *am* a fan of this ancient story. I am a fan of how it asks us to think about who is to blame for evil in the world. I am a fan of how it examined gender relationships and inequality, even before it was trendy. I am a fan of how it facilitates philosophical conversations about free will and forgiveness. I am a fan of how the story shows human perseverance in spite of our shortcomings.

Most of all, I am a fan of my students who have tackled this story with brave, intelligent, and creative spirits. It was a daunting task. I hope you enjoy our re-re-re-re-re-examination of one of the oldest stories.

— Debbie Swann

CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Debbie Swann (Director) — Debbie graduated from Kansas State University with a B.A. in Theatre and English. From there, she earned her Master's in Theatre from Texas State University and trained in England at The Shakespeare Center, The Academy of Dramatic Art and The Royal Shakespeare Company. Before moving to Colorado, she taught, designed and directed theatre at Central Community College in Columbus, Nebraska. Debbie joined CSU in 2013 and teaches various acting courses as well as Introduction to Theatre, for which her publication, *The Art of Entertainment*, has been used since 2018. Debbie also teaches in the Interdisciplinary Liberal Arts program, teaching classes about global history and cultures as expressed through the arts. As an avid artist herself, Debbie can be found making theatre at both CSU and within the Fort Collins community. Some of her favorite CSU projects include *Lysistrata*, *Machinal*, *Silent Sky*, and performing alongside her students in *Spring Awakening*. Credits with OpenStage Theatre & Company include *Steel Magnolias*, *Natural Shocks*, and Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (director), and performing in *Spring Awakening* (OPUS Award), the Henry Award-nominated *Don't Dress for Dinner*, and *Avenue Q*. Debbie is also the director of SMTD's summer theatre program for children, Kids Do It All.

Katherine Barr (Lighting Designer) — Katherine is in her final semester at CSU, majoring in Theatre Design and Technology with a focus in lighting and projection design. Her previous credits at CSU include numerous dance concerts, Associate Lighting Designer for *Fairview*, and Projection Designer for *Halloween Organ Extravaganza 2024*. Katherine is excited to conclude her time at CSU with this production and would like to thank her parents for always believing in her and supporting her passion for the arts.

Caelum Janski (Stage Manager) — Caelum is overjoyed to be making his debut as Stage Manager at CSU. He is currently a Junior studying Theatre Design and Technology. His past credits at CSU include *Fall Opera Concert 2023 (ASM)*, *Fairview (ASM)*, and *Everybody (ASM)*. Thanks to his parents, grandparents, and friends for all their support. He hopes you enjoy *Paradise Lost*, and please come see our shows next season!

Josie Karet (Scenic Designer) — Josie is a third year set design concentration here at CSU. Her past work includes design roles at Colorado State University for *Silent Sky*, *Into the Woods*, and *The Cherryfield Toy Company*. *Paradise Lost* marks her first lead design role. Josie would like to thank her family and friends for their dedicated support and wonderful company. She gives extra thanks to the incomparable Savannah Jackson, who is an endless source of inspiration.

Chloe Martin (Costume Designer) — Chloe is a second year Costume Design and Technology student and thrilled to be making her debut as lead costume designer for *Paradise Lost!* She has worked on one other show at CSU as assistant costume designer for *Our Town* and has credits outside of CSU as assistant costume designer for the film *When Angels Fear* and quick-change costume engineer for *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*. She is delighted for you to see the dedication of the department come to life! Chloe would like to thank her mom, sister, boyfriend, and friends for their unending support. She would lastly like to extend her thanks to her assistant (and practically twin) Molly Arndt, and the entire costume shop team for putting so much love into this show.

Joshua Moore (Sound Designer/A1) — Joshua Moore is thrilled to present his 10th production at CSU. He is a Third-Year Sound Design concentration and some of his favorite previous production credits are: *Into the Woods (KCACTF National Finalist Sound Design)*, *Body/Speak '25*, *Our Town*, *Body/Speak 24*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Spring Awakening (CSU)* *Always Patsy Cline*, *The Secret Garden*, *Crazy for You (Candlelight Dinner Playhouse)*, *La Traviata*, *The Elixir of Love*, and *Don Giovanni (The Santa Fe Opera)*. After graduation Joshua plans to continue sound designing and hopes to mix a Broadway tour. He would like to thank his friends and family for supporting his passion, and the incredible sound team for their hard work on this production.

Jake Mosier (Projection Designer) — Jake is enthusiastic for his last production at Colorado State University. Jake is majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Lighting and Projection Design as well as Computer Science. His recent works include *Fall Dance Concert (CSU)*, *Everybody (CSU)*, *Waiting For Godot (Bas Bleu, Fort Collins)*, *Hansel and Gretel (CSU)*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (CSU)*, *Anthropocene REMIX2025 (ASU)*, and *VIM (Vitality)*. Jake would like to thank all of the faculty and staff for their support and mentorship! Jake would like to thank his friends, family, and mentors for all their support!

Sebastian Wolfe (Fight Choreographer) — Sebastian has been a professional actor, teacher, and fight choreographer in Colorado since 2016. He obtained his BFA in Acting from UArts in Philadelphia, and his MA in Education from Western State Colorado. Having obtained the rank of *Advanced Actor Combatant* with the Society of American Fight Directors in 2015, Sebastian began his professional work as a TA with Geoffery Kent at the DCPA, assisted in choreography for *Cyrano de Bergerac* at CO Shakes, then moved to choreographing and teaching at the *Vintage Theater*, *Kinship Theater*, *Center Stage*, *JeffFest*, *Thescon*, and teaching combat at schools across the state. Sebastian currently works full time as the co-director of the theater program at the Burrell School of the Arts and Aurora Central High School. This is his first production with CSU and is so excited to work with such a talented, dedicated, and professional group! I'd like to give a huge thanks to my lovely wife Tara, and all three of my incredible puppies.

CAST BIOS

Hannah Bonansinga (Urania) — Hannah is very excited to be a part of CSU's *Paradise Lost*. This is her third year in the theatre program at CSU. She would like to thank her fellow cast members for their kindness and humor. She would also like to thank her friends and family for their unwavering support.

Jake Braun (Death, Angel Chorus, Ithuriel U.S.) — This is Jake first show here at Colorado State University, and he could not be more excited! He is a freshman here at CSU, studying Musical Theatre. When he is not on stage or at rehearsal, he loves hiking up at Horsetooth. Originally from Nebraska, Jake is so grateful to have something to look at other than corn and cows. He hopes you enjoy the show just as much as he does, and he wants his family to know he loves them very, very much, and he would not be where he is today without their support.

Darren Cull (God the Father) — Darren is currently a second-year student pursuing a degree in Theater Performance. He began his acting journey in 2014 while living in Las Vegas, NV. He then took a break from the stage to serve in the Air Force from 2019 to 2023. After completing his contract Darren decided to become a full-time student at Colorado State University. *Paradise Lost* will be his second production at CSU and he couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with. Darren would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support, his peers in the theatre department who always push him to be his best, and Debbie Swann for this tremendous role and opportunity.

Charlotte Daysh (Eve) — Charlotte is thrilled to be in *Paradise Lost* and could not be more grateful for the experience. Past credits include Granny in *Into the Woods* (CSU) and Table Woman 1/Ensemble in *Machinal* (CSU). She would like to thank her friends at CSU for supporting her. She would also like to thank her family; she loves you very much! Finally, a huge thank you to Debbie Swann for everything she has done for her.

Eliza Domingos (Uriel/Astoreth/Beelzebub U.S.) — Eliza is a junior majoring in musical theatre, with a minor in geography. Recent credits include Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown* (Theatre Aspen), Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theatre Aspen) Miss Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls* (AHS), Adult Woman in *Spring Awakening* (SOL Summer Stock Theatre), Trish in *Horse Girls* (Bard College Old Gym Theatre) and most recently Florinda in *Into the Woods* (CSU Mainstage). She has also performed in the Bard College Opera Program, Bard College Chamber Choir and most recently, CSU's Concert Choir. Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Paradise Lost*!

Kaitlin Thompson-Highsmith (Satan)— Kaitlin is very excited to be a part of *Paradise Lost*. She is currently a senior studying Musical Theatre at CSU. Some of her past credits include Steward (*Into the Woods*), Mrs. Gibbs (*Our Town*) Thanks to her parents and friends for their support.

Ashley LeCompte (Astoreth) — Ashley is a sophomore here at CSU and is a musical theatre major. She is so excited to crawl her way into your hearts even though she may not come alone. Even though this may be her first show in the department she is really excited to be a part of a show here! She hopes you enjoy the show!!

Vincent Liebchen (Belial, Angel Chorus, Raphael U/S) — Paradise lost? I don't know. Vincent's found it with this wonderful cast! This is Vincent's fourth show and he's excited for you to see! After playing somebody in everybody it's nice to have a definitive name again. He would like to thank his mother and father and all the bros who love and support him.

Anh Nguyen (Michael) — Anh is very excited to be a part of *Paradise Lost*. He is currently a senior studying theater performance at CSU. His past credits include Everybody (*Everybody*), Professor Willard (*Our Town*), Judge (*Machinal*), Boy Hamlet (*The Book of Will*), Polyneices (*These Seven Sicknesses*), Ensemble (*She Kills Monsters*). Thanks to his parents and friends for their support.

Jordan Peña (Adam) — Jordan is incredibly excited to be a part of CSU's production of Eric Shields's *Paradise Lost*. This year is Jordan's second year at CSU and this show will also be his second performance here as well, with him previously playing Wally in *Our Town*. Jordan would like to thank his family and friends for their overwhelming support throughout his life and he hopes he can continue chasing his passions to make them proud.

DeChi Peterson (God the son/Adam U.S.)— DeChi is very grateful and proud to participate in the *Paradise Lost* cast here at CSU. Some of his past credits include God/Usher/Understanding in *Everybody (CSU)*, Jax in *Oranges (CSU Play Festival)* and Sailor in *The Blue Room (CSU Play Festival)*. He is very thankful for his family and friends for supporting him and fellow cast members for making this process an amazing experience.

Josephine Snowden (Zephon) — Josephine is an exchange student from the UK excited to be making her CSU debut. She is currently a Junior Theatre Major. Some of her past credits include Angustias in *House of Bernada Alba* (Roborough Studios), Accomplice in *Murdered for Revenge* (channel 5 and paramount Plus), Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* (The Downs School). Thank you to her friends here at CSU and to her family for supporting her from afar.

Tessa Snyder (Beelzebub / Fight Captain) — Tessa Snyder is a fourth-year Theatre major at Colorado State University. In her time at CSU she has been involved in sound design and operations for CSU's productions, including sound designing *Fairview* (2024) and associate sound designing *Machinal* (2023). At CSU, Tessa has performed in *Everybody* (2024), *Our Town* (2024), and *Crumbs From The Table of Joy* (2023). *Paradise Lost* is Tessa's final show at CSU and she would like to thank the entire cast and crew for making the experience so wonderful. She would like to thank her friends and family, especially Todd Hoffman, for their constant support!

Jacob Stoner (Raphael) — Jacob is more than thrilled to be a part of *Paradise Lost*, his second production at CSU. Some of his previous work includes Farmer McCarty from *Our Town* and Dub in *Dearly Beloved*. Jacob is currently a Junior in theatre performance here at CSU. He would like to extend his gratitude to his friends and family for attending and supporting his craft, and to his fellow cast and crew members for their outstanding work in this production.

Ryan Terry (Ithuriel) — This is Ryan's third mainstage show at CSU, and he is thrilled to join such a talented group of people in this compelling reimagining of the classic literary work. He is currently a sophomore majoring in Musical Theatre Performance, with a minor in Spanish. Past credits of his include Jack in *Into the Woods*, Joe/Si Crowell in *Our Town* (Colorado State University), Gomez in *The Addams Family*, Mr. Green in *Clue: On Stage*, and Sky in *Mamma Mia!* (Highland Park Senior High). A great deal of thanks goes out to his family and friends back in Minnesota for their continued love and support.

India Thompson (Gabriel) — India is very excited to be a part of this production with it being her sixth show at CSU. She is currently a 4th year musical theatre major with a sociology minor. Some of her past credits include *Spring Awakening* (CSU Theatre), *Our Town* (CSU Theatre), and *Into the Woods* (CSU Theatre). Thank you to her family and friends for always supporting her dreams.

Aubree Vecellio (Sin) — Aubree is honored to be doing her second show with CSU! She is a history major graduating this spring and will pursue a master's at CSU in the fall. Some of her past credits include Goalie/#00 in *Wolves* (CSU), Aquata in *The Little Mermaid*, ensemble in *Hello Dolly*, *Les Miserable*, and *Beauty and the Beast* with the Pueblo Summer Musical, as well as *Music Man* with Pueblo West High School. Aubree thanks her family and fellow castmates for their support and love.

Aidan Waal (Moloch) — Aidan is beyond excited to be making his CSU debut. He is currently a senior cultural anthropology major. Some of his past credits include John in *Dark of the Moon* (Denver South) and Lazar in *Fiddler on the Roof* (Denver South). He thanks his family, his partner Kelley, and his friends specifically Mario, Rory, and Jesse for their support. He also gives a special thanks to the entire cast and crew of this production for their kindness in welcoming him into this great community.

Caylin West (Mammon) — Caylin is so excited to be making her CSU debut. She is currently a Junior Double Major in Theater Performance and Political Science. Some of her favorite past credits include Ariel in *The Tempest* (Envision Theater), The Chef in *The Polar Express* (Colorado Railroad Museum), and Student Directing *Clue* (Columbine Theater) She would like to thank her family, friends, and all the people who have continued to support her!

CSU THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Saffron Henke

PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Steven Workman

COSTUME SHOP MANAGER Elise Kulovany

INTERIM COSTUME SHOP MANAGER/CUTTER/DRAPER Rebecca Evans

COSTUME STAFF Steph Nguyen

LIGHTING SUPERVISOR Tate Sanders

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Matt Grevan

SCENIC CHARGE ARTIST Karl Hermanson

HEAD OF PROPS Melissa Centgraf

SCENE SHOP FOREMAN Johnie Rankin

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS Jack Ham, Catie Harris

ASSOCIATE SCENIC DESIGNER Savannah Jackson

ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNERS Molly Arndt

ASSOCIATE LIGHTING DESIGNER Abby Sumner

ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER Valeria Reyes

ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER Danae Johnson

ASSOCIATE PROJECTIONS DESIGNER Jacob Joachim

ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN Ava Barbieri

WARDROBE HEAD Annecy Wood

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Rene Padilla

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Lauren Gentry

ELECTRICS SHOP TEAM Katherine Barr, Sydney Berkland, Margot Chupp, Ayden Edgar, Will Haskins, Jessie King, Jackson Looney, Kat Mahler, Jordan Pena

PAINT SHOP TEAM Kendal Condon, Johnathan Paul, Julia Slagle

COSTUME SHOP TEAM Molly Arndt, Brooke Bowman, Jake Braun, Charlotte Daysh, Eliza Domingos, Anna DeFrees, Helen Jewart, Abbey Ledesma, Chloe Martin, Cecily Mash, Zoey Riescher, Maya Ross, Briana Wheeler, Ayumi Yamada

SCENIC SHOP TEAM Mackenzie Abbott, Bryce Clampitt, Terran Flynn, Meredith Hendrix, Savannah Jackson, Rene Padilla, Caitlynn Stewart, Jacob Stoner, Phoebe Williams

PROPS TEAM Nick Appl, Willow Hanff, Kylie Heimlich, Charlotte Hildreth, Bridget Poulter, Bolu Saliu, Abby Sumner, Ver Thompson

AUDIO TEAM Avery Egan, Abby Holm, Roman Ramirez

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR Will Haskins

SPOTLIGHT OPERATORS Zack Cerza, David Klimiuk

A1 Jack Gonyou

A2 Abby Holm

WARDROBE CREW Charlotte Hildreth, Katherine Mahler

DECK CREW Katie Craft, Aidan Hatley, Jack Slaughter,

YOUTH SUPERVISOR Karli D'Angeli

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

MACALA BARTUCCI, MATT BISHOP, KRISTIANNE JOHNSON, ELLIE SCHROEDER, AND LIAM TEAGARDEN

SENIOR DANCE CAPSTONE CONCERT



ellipsis

MAY 9 AND 10, 2025

FRIDAY, MAY 9, AND SATURDAY, MAY 10, 7:30 P.M. MATINEE SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2 P.M.

UNIVERSITY DANCE THEATRE

CSUARTSTICKETS.COM

PHOTO BY KIMBERLY MAYORGA



COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY

SEASON SPONSOR



The Bank
of CSU

CELEBRATING 20 AMAZING YEARS!

A LIGHTING FINAL WITH ATTITUDE!

ROCKBAND PROJECT

THURSDAY MAY 15TH @ 6:30PM

LICA STUDIO THEATRE @ University Center for the Arts
1400 Remington St.

FREE ADMISSION

OPEN MIC TO
FOLLOW FOR
CSU STUDENTS
CSU ID REQUIRED FOR OPEN MIC

PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

LEVEL UP.

The NEW CSU™ Visa® Debit Card.



Show your Rams pride everywhere you go with the all-new CSU Visa® Debit Card – free with any FNBO checking account. New design. Raised detail. Premium finish.

fnbo

The Bank of CSU

fnbo.com/csu

Member FDIC