THE COMMONWEAL THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

UGLY LIES THE BONE

by Lindsey Ferrentino

a drama of hope and healing

APRIL 6—JULY 6

PROFESSIONAL LIVE THEATRE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We, at the Commonweal Theatre, acknowledge that we work and gather on the ancestral lands of the Dakota Nation and other Indigenous peoples. We recognize these Nations as the original caretakers of this land and acknowledge the injustices committed against them. We strive to promote healing and inclusion through storytelling, which is fundamental to our mission.

As artists in our community we have a responsibility to create a welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing environment where visitors and community members can gather and explore big ideas through live theatre. Fostering such an environment begins with education and reflection. Our Land Acknowledgement is just one way the Commonweal exercises our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Thank you to the Minnesota Historical Society, Lanesboro Historical Society, Prairie Island Indian Community, Mississippi Valley Archeology Center, and Mower County Historical Society for assisting in the research that led to the formation of our Land Acknowledgement.



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Metis artist Victoria Scattergood is inspired by historical ledger drawings which were popular across the northern and southern plains of Canada and the US. She puts a unique perspective on it, using actual historical ledger prints from the late 1800s with beautiful, hand drawn animals.

WELCOME TO OUR 36th SEASON!

I am so thrilled you joined us for what I hope is an unforgettable experience.

For the past few years, during those winter months when we're not producing theater, we keep busy by preparing and planning for the season ahead and dreaming for the future. For four weeks, much of the company gathers for an extracurricular program we affectionately call "book club." Folks bring in soup to share, and we talk about the plays we'd read that particular week, encouraging other members to read our favorites. There's often an eye toward producing it on our stage, but not always.

Back in February 2023, our dear friend and collaborator Alan Bailey encouraged the company to read the very play you're about to see. His enthusiasm for *Ugly Lies the Bone* was infectious. And sometimes, that passion and fervor is all it takes to get a play onto our collective laps. By the following week, most of the book club members had read it and began to envision it on our stage. It was love at first read.

We fell in love with its heart, its grit, its hope. It offers us opportunities to explore new ways to tell stories. It's about veterans, reintegration, healing, virtual reality therapy, space shuttle launches, new frontiers, community,

family, and so much more. It asks big questions about navigating excruciating setbacks, finding home, and realizing dreams.

I'm so proud we're doing this play. And I'm so grateful you chose to spend your time with us.

Now lean in, engage, and imagine.

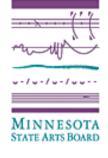
HAL CROPP Producing Artistic Director





The Commonweal Theatre Company is a member of Minnesota Citizens for the Arts and a constituent member of Theatre Communications Group. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

208 Parkway Avenue N., P.O. Box 15 Lanesboro, Minnesota 55949 (800)657-7025 • (507)467-2525 Commonwealtheatre.org



LIZZY ANDRETTA (she/her)



Company Member Since 2017

Actor/Development Associate/Dixon House Artist Residence Manager

This Season: Mary (Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley), Rachel (The Outsider), Cassie (Rumors); Co-Props Design (Ugly Lies the Bone)

Commonweal Highlights: Amalia (She Loves Me), Senga (Dancing Lessons), Meg (Leading Ladies), Rosa (The Mystery of Edwin Drood), Gabriella (Boeing Boeing), Mina (Dracula: Prince of Blood), Mrs. Kendal (The Elephant Man); choreographer (Peter and the Starcatcher, Stones in His Pockets, and A Christmas Carol (2021))

Education: MFA in Acting from the East 15 Acting School; BS from Skidmore College

CODY BEYER (he/him)



Company Member Since 2022

Actor/Designer/Technical Director & Facilities Manager

This Season: Stevie (Ugly Lies the Bone), Scenic Design (The Outsider); Co-Scenic Design (Rumors and Doubt); Mr. Darcy (Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley)

Commonweal Highlights: Sipos (She Loves Me), Edmond Rostand (Bernhardt/ Hamlet), White Knight (Alice in Winter Wonderland); Scenic Design (Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde); Props Design (Deathtrap and Good People) Other Credits: Chicago credits include: Banquo in Macbeth for Theatre-Y; and Tech Director for several Hell in a Handbag Productions

Education: BA Honors Theatre, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

"Here's to another year of sharing stories with this wonderful community!"

STELA BURDT (she/her)



Company Member Since 2001

Actor/Music Director/Director of Administration

This Season: Kacie (Ugly Lies the Bone), Sound Designer (Rumors), Music Director (Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley)

Commonweal Highlights: Liz (Women in Jeopardy!), Ritter (She Loves Me), Jeanie (Good People), Madame Flo (Souvenir), Woody Guthrie's American Song, Crimes of the Heart, Zombies from the Beyond, A Midnight Dreary, Harvey, and Man of La Mancha; Sound Design (Scott Dixon's Dracula: Prince of Blood) Other Credits: music director, sound designer, freelance musician

Education: Proud graduate of Luther College with studies in music and theatre "Living my role of a lifetime as a mother, with much love to our community for holding our family up." #TeamScottyForever

HAL CROPP (he/they)



Company Member Since 1992

Producing Artistic Director

This Season: Arthur Vance (The Outsider), Ernie (Rumors)

Commonweal Highlights: favorite roles have been in Ghostwriter, Dracula, Outside Mullingar, Sherlock Holmes, The Drawer Boy, To Kill A Mockingbird, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, Christmas Carol, Groucho, and Talley's Folly. Select directing credits include Headspace Theatre, Peter and the Starcatcher, Brand, Heartland Portrait, Wild Duck, Measure for Measure, Peer Gynt, Hedda Gabler, A Midnight Dreary, Enchanted April, Ghosts, Little Shop of Horrors Other Credits: He was the Sally Irvine Award winner for Initiative (2006) and has served on the Lanesboro City Council, Economic Development Authority, and Chamber Board of Directors

Education: MFA National Theatre Conservatory; MBA Santa Clara University; AB

Brown University

SYNTH GONZALEZ (they/them)



Company Member Since 2023

Stage Manager/Dramaturg/Designer/Production Team Associate

This Season: Assistant Stage Manager/Props Design (The Outsider), Co-Scenic Design and Intimacy Coordinator (Rumors), Sound Design/Performance Stage Manager (Doubt): Stage Manager (Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley)

Commonweal Highlights: The Effect, She Loves Me, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Women in Jeopardy! Other Credits: Quad City Area Credits include: director (The God of Vengeance); stage manager (Cabaret, Ride the Cyclone); assistant director (The Threepenny Opera, The Mountaintop); dramaturg at The Spotlight Theatre

Education: BA in Theatre History and Tech & Design, Augustana College "All my love and gratitude to Isa, Eli, Clarke, and my wonderful family."

SARA HUESER (she/her)



Company Member Since 2022

Props and Sound Designer/Properties Manager and IT Support

This Season: Co-Props Design (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Sound Design (*The Outsider*), Props Design (*Rumors*), Props Design (*Doubt*).

Commonweal Highlights: Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Women in Jeopardy!, Deathtrap, Bernhardt/Hamlet, Alice in Winter Wonderland, Good People, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Leading Ladies Other Credits: The Other Place, My Way: A Frank Sinatra Tribute, The Wild Party, The Party

Education: BCompSc, Pennsylvania College of Technology; BFA in Dramatic Writing at Savannah College of Art and Design

JACLYN JUNE JOHNSON (she/they)



Company Member Since 2020

Actor/Director/Intimacy Director/Production Manager

This Season: Intimacy Director (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), Paige (*The Outsider*), Director (*Rumors*), Jane (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

Commonweal Highlights: Elizabeth (*Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*), Director (*Deathtrap, Leading Ladies*), Margie (*Good People*), Alice Nutting (*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*) Other Credits: Jaclyn has performing, playwriting, directing, and designing credits with companies such as St. Croix Festival Theatre, Children's Theatre of Madison, Creede Repertory, Riverside Theatre, and Chicago's UTG Improv Theatre.

Education: BA, Cornell College

"I'd like to thank, for their loving encouragement: my family, friends, spouse, and our pets. And thank you for supporting the arts—specifically your support of the uniquely healing community of theatre."

JOSIAH LAUBENSTEIN (he/him)



Company Member Since 2018

Actor/Sound Designer/Marketing Team Associate/Video Editor/Literary Manager

This Season: Sound Designer (Ugly Lies the Bone and Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley), Dave (The Outsider)

Commonweal Highlights: Georg (She Loves Me), Jack/Stephanie (Leading Ladies), Bernard (Boeing Boeing)

Education: MFA in Acting, University of South Carolina

"A very special thank you to my lovely wife, Rachel, and all the love in the world to my two children, Franny & Jude."



THANK YOU FOR SILENCING YOUR PHONES AND REFRAINING FROM TEXTING DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

ISABELLA ANASTASIA LEIGH (she/her)



Company Member Since 2023

Production Stage Manager/Administrative Team Associate

This Season: Rehearsal Stage Manager (*Ugly Lies the Bone, The Outsider, Rumors, Doubt*); Performance Stage Manager (*Rumors*); Intimacy Coordinator (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*)

Commonweal Highlights: Rehearsal Stage Manager (She Loves Me and Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde); Rehearsal/Performance Stage Manager (Deathtrap) Other Credits: stage management and directing with: Austin Shakespeare, Jarrott Productions, ScriptWorks (Austin, TX); Broom Street Theatre, Children's Theatre of Madison, Forward Theater, Music Theatre of Madison, and StageQ (Madison, WI)

Education: BA in Gender & Women's Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison "Much love to my kitties, Rosalind and Beatrice."

JOHN B. NICOL (he/him)



Company Member Since 2022

Actor/Assistant Stage Manager/Production & Administrative Associate

This Season: Assistant Stage Manager (*Ugly Lies the Bone*), A.C. Petersen (*The Outsider*), Co-Scenic Designer (*Doubt*), Arthur de Bourgh (*Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*

Commonweal Highlights: Arpad Laszlo (She Loves Me), Michal (The Pillowman), Deputy/Nick Cricker II (The Mystery of Edwin Drood)

Education: BS in Theatre Arts, Minnesota State University, Mankato "Thank you to the people who hear, and further thanks for the people who listen."

LAURIE ROBERTS (she/her)



Company Member Since 2022

Actor/Choreographer/Development Associate

This Season: Jess (Ugly Lies the Bone), Chris (Rumors), Elizabeth (Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley), Intimacy Coordinator (The Outsider)

Commonweal Highlights: Eight Shoppers (She Loves Me), Myra (Deathtrap), Assistant Director (Bernhardt/Hamlet), The Dutchess (Alice in Winter Wonderland), and Choreographer (The Mystery of Edwin Drood) Other Credits: Chicago credits from A Red Orchid Theatre, Facility Theatre, Hell in a Handbag, and Theatre Y. Cincinnati credits include Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Know Theatre, and Cincinnati Fringe Festival (recipient of the 2015 Producer's Pick.) Laurie has also worked as an acting teacher, movement director, and choreographer.

Education: MFA, University of South Carolina; BA, University of Washington "Love to my husband, Cody, and the floof-babies: Duke Orsino and Meriadoc Brandybuck."

JODI RUSHING (they/she)



Company Member Since 2019

Stage Manager/Front of House Supervisor

This Season: Assistant to Costume Designer (*Ugly LiesThe Bone*), Performance Stage Manager (*The Outsider*), Assistant to Costume Designer (*Rumors*)

Commonweal Highlights: Performance stage manager (Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde),
Performance stage manager (Good People), Costume Design (The Complete Work
of William Shakespeare...), Costume Designer (I Love to Eat), Assistant Stage
Manager (On the Verge) Other Credits: Stage Manager (Doniphan Dance Project),
Conference Manager (American College Dance Association - South); Makeup Artist
(The Wonder of the World... currently in post production)

Education: BA in Theatre & Film, University of Mississippi

TIM SAILER (he/him)



Company Member Since 2021 (plus 2009-2011)

Actor/Assistant Director of Marketing

This Season: Kelvin (Ugly Lies the Bone), Ken (Rumors)

Commonweal Highlights: Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, She Loves Me, Leading Ladies, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, An Enemy of the People, The Rainmaker Other Credits: More than 50 roles across 35 plays at the American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, VA; Utah, Houston, and Texas Shakespeare Festivals; Park Square

Theatre; Theater L'Homme Dieu; audiobook narrator *Education:* MFA in Acting, University of Houston

"We must risk delight." - poet Jack Gilbert

ALEX SCHLESINGER (they/them)



Company Member Since 2021

Actor/Designer/Light & Sound Technician/Marketing Associate

This Season: Projection Design & Performance Stage Manager (Ugly Lies the Bone), Lighting Design (The Outsider), Glenn (Rumors), Charles Bingley (Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley)

Commonweal Highlights: Waiter (She Loves Me), Clifford (Deathtrap), Stevie (Good People), Nick Cricker/Durdles (The Mystery of Edwin Drood) Other Credits: Riff Raff (The Rocky Horror Show) at New Minowa Players in Decorah; Amos Hart (Chicago) at Luther College

Education: BA in Theatre, Luther College

"Thanks to my mentor, professor, and good friend Jeff Dintaman for his years of support and sharing of knowledge that got me to where I am today."

ADRIENNE SWEENEY (she/her)



Company Member Since 2001

Actor/Associate Artistic Director/Director of External Communications

This Season: Louise (The Outsider), Cookie (Rumors)

Commonweal Highlights: Sarah Bernhardt (Bernhardt/Hamlet), Women in Jeopar-

dy!, (Berte) Boeing Boeing, Sylvia

Education: MFA in Acting, University of Arizona

"Thank you for choosing to be here."

JEREMY van METER (he/him)



Company Member Since 2012

Actor/Director of Development

This Season: Ned (The Outsider), Father Flynn (Doubt)

Commonweal Highlights: I Ought to Be in Pictures, Come Back, Dracula: Prince of Blood, Outside Mullingar, Brand, The Philadelphia Story Other Credits: Barter Theatre Actor in Residence; Riverside Shakespeare Festival; Illinois Shakespeare Festival; Great River Shakespeare Festival; Caffeine Theatre (Chicago) Artistic Associate

Education: MFA in Acting from the University of Iowa

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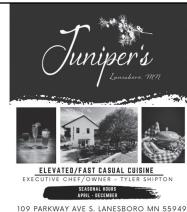
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THIS PRODUCTION ALSO FEATURES...



BETTI BATTOCLETTI (Voice/Their Mom, she/her) Commonweal credits include *Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Women In Jeopardy, I Ought to Be in Pictures, The Mystery of Edwin Drood, Sanders Family Christmas, On the Verge, The Clean House, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, and Steel Magnolias as well as choreographing She Loves Me. Other favorite credits include Always...Patsy Cline (at Lyric Arts), The World Goes Round and Urinetown (The Jungle Theater), 42nd Street, Prisoner of Second Avenue, Cassie in A Chorus Line (Artistry), and Georgie Bukatinsky in The Full Monty (Theater Latte Da). She is a lyricist, playwright, choreographer and owns Bodiology Pilates in Hopkins, MN.*



BILL DUWELL (scenic design, he/him) a Dodgeville, WI resident and is the Technical Director for American Players Theatre in Spring Green, WI. He received his BA in Theatre from SW Minnesota State University.



KIM MURPHY (costume design, she/her) is excited to be joining Commonweal for her third season for *Ugly Lies the Bone* and *Rumors*. Since 2000, Kim has been a costume designer at St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, Wl. Kim and her husband, James Shoop live an artistic life in St. Croix Falls and raised two beautiful souls Gabriel and Sienna. Kim and James can often be found at their Gallery at The Northrup King Building in N. Minneapolis. Kim received a B.S. in Apparel Design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and AAS in Fashion Design From the Fashion Institute of Technology-NYC. With G & S in college, opportunities are ahead and sends love to all who have supported her.



AMANDA RAFUSE (director, she/her) is delighted to be back at the Commonweal after directing *Bernhardt/Hamlet* in 2023. In 2002, she first appeard at the Commonweal in *Emperor of the Moon*, and then in 9 other productions between 2002–2013. Favorite Commonweal roles include Truvy (*Steele Magnolias*), Isabella/Pompey (*Measure for Measure*), Ruth Condomine (*Blithe Spirit*), and Campaign Manager for the capital campaign to build this beautiful theater. In 2013, Amanda moved to Vermont, serving as Northern Stage's Development Director/Campaign Manager, then Associate Artistic Director. Recent directing credits include the North American Premiere of Nina Zakhzhenko's *I'm Fine; Hamlet; The Tempest; Curious Incident ...; Twelfth Night; Almost, Maine*; and *Deployed*.



BRANDT ROBERTS (prosthetics design, he/him) is an actor, designer, and educator. For nine seasons he was a resident actor at the Commonweal Theatre. Favorite Commonweal design credits include *Silent Sky, Come Back, I Love to Eat, Dracula: Prince of Blood*, and *Scotland Road*. Roberts has also designed props at Yellow Tree Theatre and Lakeshore Players Theatre. He currently teaches theatre at Concordia University and voice & dialects at the University of Minnesota. Brandt holds an MFA from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He misses the Lanesboro community and his Commonweal family.



THOMAS WHITE (lighting design, he/him), a Cedar Falls, IA resident and milkman at Hansen's Dairy, recently co-directed *Kinky Boots* at the Waterloo Community Playhouse alongside his husband, Bryan, marking his directorial debut. Thomas earned a BA in technical theater from the University of Northern Iowa and is a founding member of Sissy's Sircus, a burlesque troupe that pushes the boundaries of gender identity and sexuality through drag, dance, and theatre. Other professional credits include the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the Telluride Film Festival and, of course, the Commonweal.

UGLY LIES THE BONE

by Lindsey Ferrentino

DESIGNERS & SPECIALISTS

Director Amanda Rafuse

Scenic Designer Bill Duwell
Costume Designer Kim Murphy
Lighting Designer Thomas White

Props Designers Lizzy Andretta & Sara Hueser

Sound Designer Josiah Laubenstein Projections Designer Alex Schlesinger

& Performance Stage Manager

Prosthetics Designer Brandt Roberts
Costume Assistant Jodi Rushing
Prosthetics Application Artist Synth Gonzalez
Production Manager Jaclyn June Johnson

Production Manager & Intimacy Director

Rehearsal Stage Manager Isabella Anastasia Leigh

Assistant Stage Manager John B. Nicol

CAST

Jess Laurie Roberts Kacie Stela Burdt Stevie Cody Beyer Kelvin Tim Sailer

Voice/Their Mom Betti Battocletti

SETTING

Titusville, Florida—the heart of Florida's space coast at the end of NASA's shuttle program—the end of an era

This production will run without an intermission. Please see the front of house staff for the precise run time.

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The Commonweal is grateful for a generous anonymous donation in sponsorship of the entire 2024 season.

PLAYWRIGHT BIO



LINDSEY FERRENTINO is a New York-based playwright originally from the sunny state of Florida, where many of her plays are set. Her play *Ugly Lies the Bone* was a New York Times Critic Pick and played a sold-out extended run off-Broadway at Roundabout Theater Company in the Underground. Charles Isherwood in the New York Times called Lindsey "a brave playwright of dauntless conviction."

Lindsey's other plays include *Moonlight on the Bayou, Paradise Bar and Grill, Magic Man, Amy and the Orphans,* and *Kokomo*. She is the recipient of the 2015 Laurents/Hatcher Citation of Excellence, winner of the Paul Newman Drama Award, an Outer Critic's Circle John Gassner Award nominee, and a 2015 Finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize

Ferrentino wrote the book to a new musical in development with composer/lyricist Stephen Schwartz (Wicked, Godspell): The Queen

of Versailles, based on the 2012 documentary about billionaire socialite Jacqueline Siegel (starring Kristin Chenoweth). It will have a pre-Broadway run in Boston this summer.

Lindsey holds a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, an MFA in playwriting from Hunter College, and a second master's degree in playwriting from The Yale School of Drama.

CREDITS

"Ugly Lies the Bone" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

"Ugly Lies the Bone" was developed during a residency at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center's National Playwrights Conference in 2014. Preston Whiteway, Executive Director | Wendy C. Goldberg, Artistic Director

Woodward/Newman Award Winner
Developed and Produced by the Bloomington Playwrights Project,
Chad Rabinovitz, Producing Artistic Director

This Play received a developmental workshop by the Theatre Program of Fordham University in October 2014.

World Premiere Produced in New York City by Roundabout Theatre Company (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director Harold Wolpert, Managing Director Julia C. Levy, Executive Director Sydney Beers, General Manager) as part of Roundabout Underground at the Harold and Miriam Steinberg Center for Theatre on October 13, 2015.

ROUNDABOUT THEATRE COMPANY (Todd Haimes, Artistic Director). An award-winning, not-for-profit company founded in 1965, Roundabout has been recognized for its varied work on five stages on and off Broadway, reaching more than 700,000 theatergoers and 18,000 students each year. Roundabout fulfills its mission each season through the production of classic plays and musicals; development and production of new works by established and emerging writers; educational initiatives that enrich the lives of children and adults; and a subscription model and audience outreach programs that cultivate and engage all audiences. Roundabout Underground, the company's program for early-career playwrights, was launched in 2007. "Ugly Lies the Bone" marks the tenth play in the Roundabout Underground program and is Lindsey Ferrentino's first play with Roundabout. More information on Roundabout's mission, history and programs can be found at roundabouttheatre.org.



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Notes from the Director



Playwright Lindsey Ferrentino says *Ugly Lies the Bone* "is a play about the act of survival." I, of course, agree, but would add the story goes beyond survival (continuing to exist in spite of danger or hardship) to show us RECOVERY (the action or process of regaining possession or control of something stolen or lost), RECONCILIATION (bring into agreement or harmony), and REGENERATION (to improve something to make it more active, successful, or important, especially after a period of decay) in action.

I ask you, dear audience, to think about the questions our team has been pondering as we prepared this production. These are some of the golden threads of *Ugly Lies the Bone*—what we hope you talk about on your drive home, over breakfast tomorrow, or at work next week:

- Where do I belong in the world?
- How do I step into the next phase of my life?
- How do I live in the present while dealing with the past?
- How do I find hope?
- How do we as a nation search for a new beginning?
- What does the next dream for our country look like?

As a long-time Commonweal artist (22 years since my first performance on the St. Mane Stage!), I believe in the power of theater to bring people together to share stories and emerge from the experience somehow changed. Today, we offer you a story of reconciliation, regeneration, and recovery. May it inspire you to bring these powerful ideas into your lives, relationships, and actions. Thank you for being here. Please enjoy the show.

SPECIAL THANKS

Patrick Bailey; Stefan T. Brown; SSG Kate Howe, US Army; Sara Kling-Punt; Lifetime Eye Care of Preston; Kari Porter, LPC; and LTC (R) Jenn Wagner, US Army.

COMMONWEAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chuck Aug, David Boen, Laura Gentry, Chris Hanson, Julie Kiehne, Sarah Kling-Punt, Wendy Mattison, Ken Mogren, André Novack, Megan Pence, Sarah Peterson, Jose Rivas.

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Explore more about the play and its subject matter by visiting our show page at commonwealtheatre.org.



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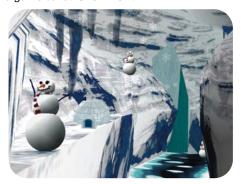




WELCOME TO SNOWWORLD

Jess's virtual reality (VR) therapy in Ugly Lies the Bone is based on a real-life VR treatment with a game called SnowWorld.

It's a "Disneyesque world on ice," where snowflakes gently gently from the sky as the player moves through an icv glacier landscape full of cartoon-v penguins and snowmen, at which the player can launch snowballs. One hit will freeze them, and subsequent hits will cause an ice-shard explosion—all amidst the cheery soundtrack of Paul Simon's "You Can Call Me Al." [GQ]



In Ugly Lies the Bone, there is no combat component to Jess's therapy (though the first-person shooter element can act as an additional odd comfort for burn victim soldiers), and patients are often in their beds while nurses tend to their bandages. Instead, Jess undergoes a kind of physical therapy, working her muscles and limbs while she explores the snowy terrain.

The goal, however, is the same: diverting attention. The distraction is vital for burn victims, because their wound care is an excruciating, traumatic necessity.

According to the University of Washington HITLab (Human Interface Technology): "When patients are resting (most of the time), opioids (morphine and morphine-related chemicals) are adequate for controlling their burn pain. In sharp contrast, during wound care such as daily bandage changes, wound cleaning, staple removals etc., opioids are not enough, not even close."

Another article states "Not only does wound care remind these patients of when they got their injuries, it can also elicit negative memories from past procedures, which...can often be more traumatizing than they initial burn." [GEEK WIRE]

This is when SnowWorld saves the day.

The game was developed at the University of Washington HITLab in collaboration with Harborview Burn Center. It was "the first immersive virtual world designed for reducing pain. SnowWorld was specifically designed to help burn patients."

The HITLab continues:

Pain perception has a strong psychological component. The same incoming pain signal can be interpreted as painful or not, depending on what the patient is thinking. Pain requires conscious attention.

The role of The Voice in *Ugly Lies the Bone* expresses a similar sentiment when she says: "It's the same as—when you were a child and your mother said look over here so you didn't notice while she ripped your bandaid off...that's all we'll do. Distract your brain with enough stimuli, it can't THINK about your pain. It simply won't have time."

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The results for pain management with soldiers playing SnowWorld were astonishing. "Soldiers reported significant drops in pain while immersed in SnowWorld. Time spent thinking about pain, which is an inextricable contributor to actual pain, dropped from 76 percent without SnowWorld to 22 percent with SnowWorld. Amazingly, some of the biggest drops were for the most severe

RECOMMENDED READING

Playwright Lindsey Ferrentino notes her play was inspired by an article she read in GQ about Army veteran Sam Brown and his remarkable journey of recovery after being hit by an IED (improvised explosive device) in Afghanistan. We highly recommend reading this

harrowing and moving article after attending the *Ugly Lies* the Bone.



levels of pain, which went against every previous expectation." [GQ]

The work of VR therapy continues. According to the online tech magazine The Next Web, other pain and technology centers have used the research provided from HIT-Lab to develop more games and continue trials for patients with a variety of chronic pain ailments. The trials consistently report significant improvement in pain from patients all over the country who are using immersive games like SnowWorld for their treatment.





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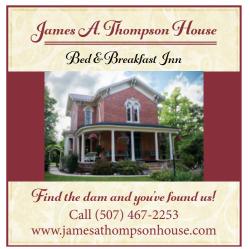
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—Jon & Mary Hart

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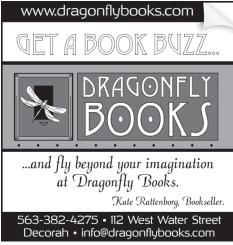
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