

A St. Olaf Theater Department World Premiere

LIGHTHOUSE

book, lyrics & story by abs wilson '21

music & story by Veronica Mansour

directed by William Sonnega

Thursday, March 14th - 7:30pm

Friday, March 15th - 7:30pm

Saturday, March 16th - 2pm & 7:30pm

Sunday, March 17th - 2pm

Cast

Bus Ella Douma
CheeseHailey Guptail
ChurchPiper Kuehl
HotdishFiona Mundy
10,000 LakesMichaela Tucci
Snow Sabe Dunlap

Pit

BanjoPatrick O'Loughlin
MandolinBrennan Sele
GuitarCaleb Berrios
Guitar Clara Smith
Bass Auguste Benrick
Drums Rylie Hansen
Keyboard Lizzy Chen
CelloHannah Leiseth

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Lighthouse	<i>full cast</i>
Interesting	<i>full cast</i>
See Yourself	<i>Bus, Cheese</i>
Stormchaser	<i>10,000 Lakes</i>
It's Easy	<i>Church, Cheese, 10,000 Lakes, Bus</i>
The Way She Sees Me	<i>Hotdish</i>
The Snow and the Fire	<i>Bus, Snow</i>
See Yourself (Reprise)	<i>Bus, Cheese, Snow, 10,000 Lakes</i>
Trust Fall	<i>Hotdish, Bus</i>
Cry Night	<i>Bus, Church, Hotdish, Snow, Cheese</i>

ACT II

Out of Your Town	<i>Bus</i>
See Yourself (Reprise 2)	<i>Cheese, Bus</i>
I Prayed for You	<i>Hotdish, Church</i>
Runaway Girl	<i>Church</i>
The Storm Always Comes	<i>10,000 Lakes</i>
The Snow and the Fire (Reprise)	<i>Snow, Bus</i>
Back Like Before	<i>Cheese, 10,000 Lakes, Bus</i>
The Blizzard/Lighthouse (Reprise)	<i>full cast</i>
Bus Stop	<i>Bus</i>
Finale	<i>full cast</i>

A Director's Note

When Abs and Veronica shared an early draft of *Lighthouse* last year, I was halfway through when I knew we needed to do it at St. Olaf. Listening to Veronica's amazing demo tracks as I followed Bus on in her four-day odyssey into the heart of a blizzard, the story cut deep into its midwestern roots, and the characters' raw emotion resonated in ways both timely and profound. At the same time, the chance to produce the world premiere of a new musical, co-authored by Abs, a distinguished alumna of our Theater department, set in a rural Minnesota town in the winter, *in a rural Minnesota town in the winter*, was clearly a sign the stars were aligning. And so I excitedly sent Abs and Veronica a note, and our work began.

Of all stories, I have always been drawn to those about people who love deeply and desperately, but who for complicated reasons struggle to express this, or to receive love from others, even when unconditionally offered. Such stories seem utterly human, as they're about the myriad ways we defend and protect ourselves not solely against unknown enemies but those closest to us—our parents, partners, children and friends. This would be comic if it wasn't so tragic, or maybe it's the other way around. I'm biased, but for me live theater is amongst the best ways to

display this irony. And Abs and Veronica do it brilliantly in *Lighthouse*.

In *Lighthouse*, Bus, our totally unreliable narrator, may be an 18-year-old girl living amidst corn fields, but the challenges she faces are broadly relatable and widely shared. Trying to maintain her balance while enduring the disruptions of seizures, and anxiety of facing the future without a road map, Bus lashes out, retreats, digs deep, and, finally, with the greatest courage anyone can muster, tells herself, and accepts, an ultimate truth—all we really have is each other, right here, right now, one day at a time, on and on and on. There is a powerful hope in this, a lighthouse on a godforsaken stormy night. From all of us involved with this special project, we sincerely hope you leave the theater feeling more of it.

William Sonnega

March 1, 2024

Crew

Stage Manager Elena Pierson
Assistant Stage Manager Tyler Haines
Master Electrician Sarah Witmer '24
Sound Board Operator Zoe Ottinger
Sound Board Mixer Bailey Fenn
Projection Operator Queenie Wynter
Light Board Operator Max Hickman
Props Coordinator Gavin Webb
Fly Operator Phoebe Saul
Spotlight Operators Michael Oaks
Emily Jacobson
Wardrobe Lillian Engelsgjerd
Zuzanna Wasiluk
Run Crew Oliver Rosenquist,
Joshua Bove, Ari Unowsky
Light, Sound, and Media Kristina Zerwas,
Daniel Redman, Max Hickman, Alex Kelly
Costume Construction Alexa Hwang,
Elena Pierson, Jacob Thompson, Anike Braun,
Sydney Niehaus, Lindsey Niehaus, Ally Nolan,
Rylie Hansen, Auggie Lehn, Kathryn Sprandel
Scene Shop Crew. Anika James, Alyssa
Stewart, Claire Koenig, Colleen Peery, Glen
Norvell, Jacob Thompson, Julia Zaepfel, Maya
Silver, Mio Aoki-Sherwood, Phoebe Saul, Sierra
McGuire, Yjw Siab Lor, Emmanuel Ameri

Note from the Writer and Composer

We just want to say we're so thankful to Bill, Parker, and the whole cast, crew, and St. Olaf staff for all their incredible work, and are so thankful for the opportunity to bring our piece to life! We're really grateful for everyone at St. Olaf who's made this production possible, and also so thankful for everyone who's come to see the show and has now become a part of the LIGHTHOUSE journey! Our show is still a big work in progress, and we'd love to hear your thoughts as we continue to develop and hone the piece! You can reach out to us at lighthousethemusical@gmail.com or follow us on instagram at [@lighthouse_the_musical](https://www.instagram.com/lighthouse_the_musical) for more updates on what's coming up next for the show! You can also scan the QR below to take a look at our website!

abs wilson and Veronica Mansour



Creative Team

Director William Sonnega
Music Director Parker Barrette
Choreographer Ywj Siab Lor
Dramaturge Bjorn Johnson
Sound Designer Parker Love '22
Assistant Sound Designer Zoe Ottinger
Costume Designer Rebecca Bernstein
Scenic Designer/Props Megan Riley
Lighting Designer Niffer Pflager
Technical Director Megan Riley
Marketing Ali Reagan
Media Designer Niffer Pflager
Asst. Media Designer Max Hickman

Content Warning

Themes of mental health issues including anxiety and OCD, themes of epilepsy and seizures, mentions of suicide (non-graphic), mentions of death, and cursing.

Dramaturg's Note

You are participating in musical theater history by attending this show. That is a big statement, but once you leave this theater you will find it is not an idle boast. *Lighthouse* is a collaboration between **abs wilson** '21 and **Veronica Mansour**, which began while they were students at the New York University Tisch School of Arts. It has gone through various festivals and workshops, and it collects accolades everywhere it is featured. It is a fourth-wall breaking, gut-punching and gut-busting, distinctly midwestern pop-country musical. *Lighthouse* confronts us with our fears and doubts: failure to launch, turning into our parents, being honest with ourselves and others, and it challenges us to believe we do not have to sit alone at the heart of the storm. I think I speak for everyone involved in our production of *Lighthouse*, that although we are certain this show will play to larger audiences on bigger stages, we will always be a part of its world premiere—and now you, as its first audiences, will be as well.

-Bjorn Johnson
Dramaturg

Lighthouse's Journey

Winner of the 2024 Richard Rodgers Award

Developed at NYU Tisch

Winner of Syracuse University's New Works

New Voices developmental reading program

Finalist for the 2023 Eugene O'Neill National

Musical Theatre Conference

Finalist for the Olney Theatre Center Vanguard

Arts Fund

NAMT finalist

Song "Runaway Girl" one of the three winners

of Taylor Louderman's *Write Out Loud*

Songwriting Contest

Featured in the Vanguard Theater Illuminating

New Voices New Work Festival

Featured in New York Theatre Barn's New

Works Festival

Recipient of the Richard Rodgers Award 2024

World premiere production at St. Olaf College

Special Thanks To

The Anna K. Bonde Memorial Apprenticeship in Theater (Anna K. Bonde Apprentices for Lighthouse are Sarah Witmer '24 and Parker Love '22)

Steven Fox, for his generous support of the St. Olaf Theater

Our wonderful custodial staff, Troy Petersen and Jose Payes, for maintaining our creative spaces for artistry to grow

St. Olaf's Broadcast Media team, including Jeffrey O'Donnell, Annika Knudson & Ryan Moore

Therees Hibbard, Marita Stryker, Chung Park, Tracey Engleman, Alison Feldt, Heather Klopchin

Sara Pilltazki-Warezeha, Elaigwu Ameh, Peter Hansen, Michelle and Skye Sonnega for generously sharing their insights and expertise.

Caribou Coffee for their donation of props

Coming Soon...

The Effect by Lucy Prebble

April 25th-28th

Student Directed by Maeve Carroll '24

The Annual Quade One-Act Festival

May 10th-11th

St. Olaf Theater