



Directed by

Kinsey Sternad

Morgan Solonar

Stephen Blotzke

Designed by Blain Radford

A performance of two one-act plays with a 15-minute intermission.

Poolside Glow is 1hr 20min long, *Stop Kiss* is 1hr 40min long

**Poolside Glow contains intense subject matter, swearing, moments of staged violence, moments of intimacy, and mentions of suicide. Stop Kiss contains loud noises, swearing, verbal descriptions of assault, and moments of intimacy between characters. Due to adult content, these shows are 18+ **

- Poolside Glow -

By Luis Roberto Herrera

Directed by Morgan Solonar
And Stephen Blotzke

PLACE

Community pool

TIME

Scene one takes place at 8:00pm, 1998

Scene two, 2002, and scene three, 2018, takes place late into the night

Characters

Serena Kinsey Sternad
Aunie Alicia Treichler (AJ)
Greg David Miller

Director's Note

Late night trips to 7 eleven. Golden hour. Sunsets. Streetlights. The way it feels to be riding through the night on a bike. Holding hands. A slap across the face. Floating on your back in water. Slushees. Fighting. Brushing things off. The intimacy of being understood. Being unable to express how you truly feel. Your deepest darkest secret. The thing that you've never said out loud. Resigning to the truth you think you have to live. Best friends. The glow.

Poolside Glow, to me, is a coming-of-age story that leaves you heartbroken. The kind that makes your heart burn a little. Like when you have been swimming and open your eyes under water and cry right after, that kind of burn. Poolside Glow has this effect on me, because there is no sugar coating. No "we can't put that on stage, people won't like it". It's raw, it's real and it encapsulates the experience that real people have in America. It doesn't just show the pretty parts, but the ugly parts too.

There will be parts of this play that you don't like, I can guarantee it. And that's okay. It's supposed to be that way. This play hit me so hard when I first read it, because it forces you to live in a world where two seemingly opposite things can be true at the same time. That's the most heartbreaking thing to me. As much as we wish we could isolate feelings of hate, fear, and love, sometimes we can't. Sometimes you feel all three, plus 5 more. Poolside Glow makes you jump headfirst into the deep end of some of the best and worst parts of being a young adult in America. I hope you find yourself in the pauses. In the silences. And I hope that you too, find your glow.

- Morgan Solonar, Director

Playwright's Note

Poolside Glow was the first play I wrote that made me feel like, "Hey, I think I found my voice" – and since then, the development of it has been a journey of love. It is a play about what we as people think we deserve, what we want, and how much we are and aren't willing to sacrifice for it.

This play takes us through three moments in time between Aunie and Serena, each time cemented by the music at the top of each scene, guiding us through these characters' lives. It comes to an end with a song I believe to be an important message about how this story ends. Touching on what it means to be alive, to be a woman in this moment in time, and the fear that comes with living outside what is labeled as "normal".

More often than not, we deserve so much more than we believe. We accept what we have been conditioned to think is the "right" thing, letting it control our lives, telling us how we aren't enough because the world around us has always, as far as we know, and always will put us down. Hopefully you see a little bit of yourself, no matter where you come from or where you're going.

- Luis Roberto Herrera, Playwright

- Stop Kiss -

By Diana Son

Directed by Kinsey Sternad
And Stephen Blotzke

Setting
New York City

Characters

Callie Pax	Morgan Solonar
Sara	Jalynn Nelson
George	Will Copeland
Detective Cole	David Miller
Mrs. Winsley / Nurse	Christina Tripp
Peter	Stephen Blotzke

Director's Note

Over the last 6 months, I contemplated what my next “big project” is going to be. I read countless plays, googled “good plays to do” and procrastinated on multiple occasions. Eventually, a string of fate had Morgan and I constantly running into each other. Whether it be at my job, or the aisles of Target. I asked if she was interested in collaborating, and here we are tonight. This process would not be what it is without everyone you see on stage (and off). THTR&CO is my pride and joy, and it’s the greatest honor to share that with other artists and with a community that supports my ambitious antics. Thank you thank you thank you. I dedicate Stop Kiss to Mia Anderson, and all of the Callie’s and Sara’s in the audience tonight. It’s okay to swerve.

- Kinsey Sternad, Director

As a first time director, having been able to work on two shows simultaneously has been a challenging and equally as fulfilling opportunity. Specifically as fight choreographer for Poolside Glow I had the unique challenge of creating realistic and equally as safe choreography for the difficult subjects of sexual and domestic assault. It was my top priority that the actors involved were both safe and that the instructions were explicit and easy to understand. We don’t talk about these issues explicitly enough today, and I feel that these shows bring a much needed light to the issue of domestic violence and violence against the LGBTQ+ community.

- Stephen Blotzke, Assistant Director



AJ is thrilled to be playing Aunie in her first production with Theatre & Co. She is proud to be a part of this team and hopes you enjoy the show! Recently she has been in such plays as *Puffs* (Hannah/ensemble) and *I Am Acquainted with the Night* (Veronica). When she isn't onstage she is busy writing and hopes to publish a novel soon- fingers crossed!



Blain Radford is back at the ZACC, just not onstage this time (or ever really)! Blain is THTR & CO's stage manager, production designer, and is in the booth for *Poolside Glow* and *Stop Kiss*. He has been designing shows around Missoula for a few years now after graduating with a BFA from the University of Montana in 2020. When he isn't working on a show you can find him floating the river, out on a hike, or playing Wingspan with Kinsey.



Christina is a local Missoulian who received her BFA in Acting from the University of Montana in 2018. Some of her favorite roles have been Celia in *As You Like It* and Poppy in *Noises Off*. Recently she had the pleasure of starring in the short film *Good Company*, directed by Michael Melugin, which premiered at the Montana Film Festival. Christina is the rental coordinator at The Roxy Theater where she leads a monthly film series called the Roxy Book Club for literature loving cinephiles. When Christina isn't catching the latest film or hanging out with her two dogs, you can find her reading a good book or playing cribbage at a local brewery.



David is going into his junior year at the University of Montana and working toward his BFA in Acting. Some previous work of his includes the *The Call of the Wild* (Dave/Hal/Narrator) with the University and *The Castle of a Thousand Lights* (Toby) with the Montana Repertory Theater. He is so excited to be working with THTR&CO for the first time on this production and it makes him happy to see people making the theatre they want to make. Aside from acting, he enjoys watching baseball and playing board games with friends.



Jalynn Nelson was born and raised in Missoula, Montana. Jalynn found her love for theatre through attending shows and performing at the Missoula Community Theatre and has been a thespian since childhood. In spring of 2020, she graduated from the University of Montana with a BFA in Acting. She is thrilled to be sharing the stage again with many of her fellow UofM alumni! She has had the honor to represent characters such as Shelby in *The Spitfire Grill*, Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins*, and Olivia in *Twelfth Night*. In addition to acting, Jalynn loves to spend her time harmonizing to her music in the car, being a cat parent of her two cats, Hammond and Mei with her partner in crime, Andy, playing cozy (and not so cozy) video games, and tending to her many dramatic houseplants.



Kinsey is the second director for THTR&CO's double feature show and is ecstatic to be back in the director chair! Kinsey is from Billings Montana, and didn't discover her love for Theatre until her junior year of high school. Since then she has been hooked, and has gone on to act, dance, stage manage, and direct in a variety of shows in Missoula. Some of her favorite projects include playing #46 in *The Wolves* at UM, stage managing *Puffs* at MCT, and directing *Eurydice* last spring. When not sending billions of emails from home, Kinsey likes to read, nap, play Wingspan with Blain, and go to trivia nights with friends.



Morgan Solonar is a born and raised Missoulain who graduated from the University of Montana with an Acting BFA in 2019. Morgan has always loved the process behind theatre production, which goes back to her high school senior project where she directed a full length play written by one of her classmates. In 2015 she produced and directed *Ice Cream, Trash, and How to Escape* written by her dear friend Izzy Milch. Morgan's major acting credits include "Jim Hawkins" in the University of Montana's *Treasure Island* when she was just a Freshman, the role of "Jem" in the Montana Rep's China Tour of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and the National Tour of *On Golden Pond* where she portrayed "Billy". Morgan is thrilled to be a part of THTR & CO's production of *Poolside Glow* and *Stop Kiss*, and is grateful for the opportunity to showcase relationships of queer women. "I dedicate this performance to my younger, closeted self, who only knew how to swerve, and to every other person out there who is waiting for the right person to make them brake."



Stephen is back for his second show with Theatre and Co. You may have seen him from his first show *Dinner With Friends* last year where he played Gabe. Since *Dinner with Friends*, Stephen has been living in Casablanca, Morocco teaching theater. Now back in Missoula, Stephen is taking on a different role acting as assistant director, fight choreographer, and intimacy choreographer for both *Poolside Glow* and *Stop Kiss*! Not only that, he will also be playing Peter in *Stop Kiss*.



Originally from Washington state, Will moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana. He graduated with degrees in Theatre and Dance from UM in the spring of 2020. Will is excited to be back onstage, performing once again with friends and alumni from the college years. When he's not studying lines for the show or dancing to the latest bops, Will enjoys all the recreational opportunities Missoula has to offer. He is frequently seen hiking every trail he can find and floating the river every chance he gets.

Shout Outs!

Huge thanks to MCT for props, rehearsal space, and support!

Cambie Taphouse and Pearl Boba, for hosting our fundraisers

Show Tyme Dance Academy

Richard and Christine Radford for sweet T-shirts

Our wonderful cast and crew

Everyone who came out to our fundraisers!

And **YOU** for coming to our show! Thank you for supporting THTR & CO

