

# CAMPUS & COMMUNITY

## Striking Set On One Last Production at UWS

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After twenty-one years as the Scenic Designer and Technical Director for University Theatre at UW-Superior, Sue Wedan, has announced that she will be retiring at the end of this Spring 2024 semester. Wedan has a long history at UWS, which started in 1989 as a student and continued until 1995 when she received both her Bachelor’s and her Master’s degree in Theatre.

During her time at UWS, Wedan said she never, “had a favorite show, because they all mean something different.” As a grad student, she designed “Leader of the Pack” for her Master’s degree in 1995 which she enjoyed thoroughly. For Wedan, safety was a big priority on her sets. “Everything we do, especially if you’re having scenery fly in and fly out and you’re having things fly out of the traps from underneath the floor, it’s making sure all of that works safely,” said Wedan.

Her most tricky set design was “the beanstalk in Jack and the Beanstalk

coming out of the floor and then growing thirteen feet in the air,” Wedan said. The most memorable show for Wedan is “Arsenic and Old Lace” because she had wanted to do it for a long time. Another set that Wedan liked was “Panic.” “The set turned out, rather lovely if I do say so myself,” said Wedan.

Wedan hopes that her legacy is being a hard worker, and a good collaborator and that it takes hard work to do the things she does. “I’m fair to my students...because some of them can do a lot of things, and some of them might not be as good, but that doesn’t matter. You need to be fair to your students,” said Wedan. Students have been her favorite part of her career. “Just to see them accomplish something they never thought they would be doing,” said Wedan. She loves to see students succeed and loves to see students build things and have them use their imagination. Wedan



Sue Wedan  
Photo by Mikayla Swanson

stated, “When we’re working in the scene shop, and they’ve built something that they never thought they would build, things like that.”

Wedan is an inspiration for many, and her legacy here at UW-Superior will not be forgotten. In retirement, Wedan gave her definition of the word “retirement”, and she said that it is, “Time, by having time, you know, to spend with my grandkids. Time to do the things I want to do and less stress!” Wedan is heading into this next ‘stage’ of life, and as one door closes, yet another opens. UW-Superior will carry on the legacy that Sue Wedan has left.

basically,” Corpora said.

“The people we worked with, the editing team, were very agreeable with the mystery of (this year’s theme), and everyone is really passionate and puts a lot of extra time in to make sure it is what it is, to make sure its really well-done work that we can be proud of. I think having such a unique theme made it much more interesting for all of us to dive into together,” Corpora said on this year’s theme.

A live reading event will be hosted in Swenson Hall, both in-person and remotely, on May 8 at 5:30 p.m. to celebrate the release. Complementary copies of the brand-new issue will be available. You can also attend remotely by visiting thier facebook page.



“Welcome to the 13th Floor” cover was illustrated by UWS student Amy Bates.

Photo contributed by Julie Gard

## Nemadji Review to Release Mysterious 13th Issue

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The University of Wisconsin-Superior’s literary magazine, The Nemadji Review, is releasing its 13th edition on May 8, featuring the theme “Welcome to the 13th floor.”

The Nemadji Review is a yearly publication that features fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry, and artwork from UWS students and alumni, and local writers who live in the Twin Ports area.

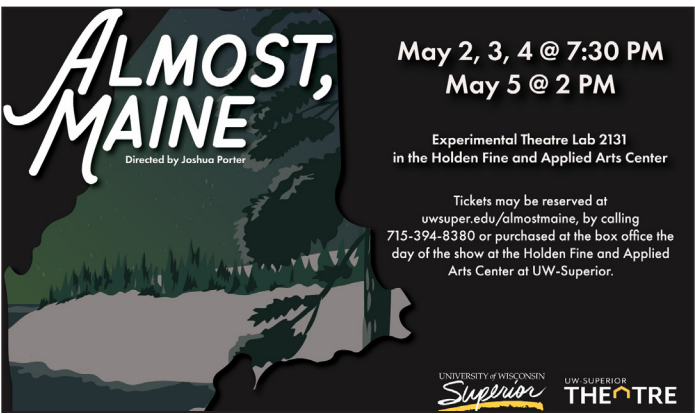
Professor of Writing Julie Gard, the magazine’s faculty advisor, said the student staff members picked this year’s theme to coincide with the publication’s 13th anniversary. “Not all the work that’s published (in this issue) relates to this theme, but a lot of the work relates to things that are quirky, odd, unexpected, maybe a little bit of horror.”

Each issue of the Nemadji Review features artwork either from a UWS student or a local artwork, and the editors try to tie the art with the issue’s thematic elements. Last year’s issue, themed “Midnight Thoughts: Creative Hour,” featured cover art by a local artist. This year’s cover art is by UWS student Amy Bates.

“(The cover art) is usually a student, although last year, it was an artist who was a community member. Basically, we get our cover art through our calls for submissions; we decide how many pieces we want to publish, be it five pieces or ten pieces, and then we go through that artwork to see what might make a good cover for the journal. Then, the students vote and decide on that,” said Gard.

Ten students worked as staff members for the Nemadji Review this semester, including Justice Corpora, who is double majoring in English and Writing and will graduate with the class of 2024. Corpora worked as editor-in-chief for the new issue while studying as a distance learning student.

“I’ve been with the Nemadji Review for basically a semester and a half because we have our ‘on’ semesters and our ‘off’ semesters where we look at contributor works that have been submitted and then a semester where we prepare for that,



## Lights, Curtain, Action

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Almost Maine debuts in the experimental theatre in HFA on Thursday, May 2, at 7:30 p.m.

The student cast is led by director Joshua Porter, who’s an alumnus of UW-Superior. He also works in the admissions office as an Admissions and Recruitment Coordinator II.

Porter has directed plays before on and off-campus, so he knows the final things needed to get the show prepared. Which they need to practice, practice, and practice. “The way we ran rehearsal was individual scenes until now. We’re now running full-run, entire show, and then doing some minor touchups throughout the week,” said Porter.

Like everything else, preparing for a presentation, a game, or a play, you need to practice. “There’s a little bit of nerves, but I think everyone is excited to get

going,” said Porter. Excitement could be felt in the practice with all the student actors and actresses eager to perform in front of an audience, and not just themselves.

Student actress Martha Stephenson is a sophomore at UWS. “I play Marvalyn, she’s a house girlfriend. She really wanted to go into nursing, but then her toxic boyfriend made her stop,” said Stephenson.

This cast is a tight-knit group, but getting closer to the show they are starting to get closer to people outside of their scenes. “I think our scene partners right now were really close, but now that we’re starting everybody at rehearsals every day, we are going to become a really close-knit group,” said Stephenson.

Almost Maine will be available on campus from May 2 to May 4 at 7:30 p.m. and May 5 from 2 p.m.

## Superior Day of Giving

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On April 10, The Superior Day of Giving was held at UW-Superior. Started as a follow-up to Minnesota’s Give to the Max Day, it is the biggest fundraising event of the year for the school.

Annual Giving Manager and Grant Manager of The Superior Day of Giving, said that in its first year, the event raised around \$10,000. Each year the event has evolved into larger amounts with this year raising over \$200,000 within a 24-hour period.

“The mission is to raise money for UWS, and the money goes to specific spots,” said Hoffman. “We get challenge matches. This year we got a \$50,000 challenge match.” For every dollar donated, two dollars are given to a specific cause ranging from scholarships to athletic funds. In it’s tenth year, Superior Day of Giving has raised around \$1 million in total.

The Superior Day of Giving takes place during the I Heart UWS Week.

On April 7, a concert benefit was performed by UWS and the College of St. Scholastica students featuring the music of Bach’s St. John Passion. Other activies through ranged from Grad Fairs and a balloon artist to Faculty and Staff Appreciation Day. The week concluded on Saturday with Yellowjacket Family Fun Day, which closed out with Ride the Cyclone.

Madison Kitch, Development Specialist for UW-Superior Advancement & Foundation, said, “The Superior Day of Giving brings the community together to support a foundation. We are a small, but mighty school, and having the Superior Day of Giving helps get the community involved with what we’re trying to do.”

There are a variety of ways for members of the community to donate if they wish. Tax-deductible donations can be made through PayPal or Venmo, or gifts can be sent to: UW-Superior PO Box 2000, Old Main 237, Superior, WI 54880.