

Swings and Understudies Spring 2026

There will be swings and understudies for *Bloom Bloom Pow* (Black Box production)

There will be swings and understudies for *The Trees* (Mainstage production).

Please read the description of swings and understudies for each show carefully. They are distinct from each other and also from previous shows

Working as a swing or an understudy is an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience with the Production Seminar process, learn about the technical rehearsal process, and work with the assistant director and/or stage management to prepare a role.

BLOOM BLOOM POW by GENEVIEVE SIMONE

Directed by Lu Glassberg

SWINGS AND UNDERSTUDIES

The cast of *Bloom Bloom Pow* will include swings and understudies.

Swings and understudies are essential contributors to the success of *Bloom Bloom Pow*. These roles offer valuable opportunities to engage deeply with the production seminar process, support technical and performance aspects, and work closely with the assistant director and stage management.

Please read the following carefully

Understudies and Swings are distinct roles and expectations may differ from past productions.

Casting Breakdown:*

Mag

Mom

Alice

Algae/Erie 2

Floyd/Ontario

Oscar/Michigan

Frances/Huron - (*Understudy for Mom*)

Keke/Superior - (*Understudy for Alice*)

Creature/Erie 1 - (*Understudy for Mag*)

Dead Horse/Dad - (*Understudy for Algae/Erie 2*)

Swing 1 - (*Swing for Creature/Erie 1, Frances/Huron, and Keke/Superior*)

Swing 2 - (*Swing for Dead Horse/ Dad, Oscar/Michigan, and Floyd/Ontario*)

SWINGS

Swings are **non-performing cast members** who also prepare to step into two or three roles if needed. They must be ready to go on, perform on-book if necessary, and participate in rehearsals as scheduled.

Responsibilities:

- Prepare to swing in for one or two characters.
- Learn the blocking of the assigned characters (including an alternate version of fight/intimacy choreography).
- Remain up to date on script and blocking changes via Stage Management and rehearsal attendance.
- Attend rehearsals as scheduled.
- Be available to step in during rehearsals, with notice:
 - 30 minutes if "on call"
 - 45–60 minutes if not on call
 - "On call" = on campus or within 10 minutes of the JKB, reachable by text/email, and ready to rehearse.
- Attend swing "put-in" rehearsals as scheduled.
- Perform on-book if needed during a performance.
- Participate in performative duties (e.g., recordings, costume fittings, etc.) related to your swing track.

Understudies

Understudies are **Performing members** of the cast who prepare to fill in for one role. They must be ready to go on, perform on-book if necessary, and participate in rehearsals as scheduled.

Responsibilities:

- Prepare to perform one track in addition to assigned track
- Learn the blocking of the assigned track (including an alternate version of fight/intimacy choreography).
- Remain up to date on script and blocking changes via Stage Management and rehearsal attendance.
- Attend rehearsals as scheduled in addition to primary track rehearsals.
- Be available to step in during rehearsals, with notice:
 - 30 minutes if "on call"
 - 45–60 minutes if not on call
 - "On call" = on campus or within 10 minutes of the JKB, reachable by text/email, and ready to rehearse.
- Attend "put-in" rehearsals as scheduled.
- Perform on-book if needed during a performance.
- Participate in performative duties (e.g., recordings, costume fittings, etc.) related to your swing track.

Enrollment Note: Swings and Understudies may be eligible to register for **TH 250**, as arranged with the instructor of record or the production director.

The cast of ***The Trees*** will include swings and understudies

The cast of ***The Trees*** will include *swings*.

Swings will be non-performing members of the cast who prepare to swing into assigned roles. They must be available and prepared to go on for principal actors who are out for whatever reason. If called upon to perform, swings may perform on book. Swings are expected to attend rehearsals regularly, as agreed upon with the director. Note this may include attending rehearsals when the role (or roles) for which they are swinging is (are) called.

Swings in ***The Trees*** will cover the roles of Grandmother, Ezra, Charlotte, Jared, Norman, Saul, Julian, Tavish, Terry, and Sheryl.

As a swing in *The Trees*, you will be responsible for:

- Familiarizing yourself with the text of 1-2 characters in the cast. Swings are NOT required to learn lines and will perform on-book if necessary.
- Learning the blocking of 1-2 characters (not including intimacy/fight choreography). Swings are responsible for staying current on blocking and acting changes through the Stage Manager and/or ASMs.
- Setting your baseline rehearsal attendance schedule with the director.
- Attending rehearsals as agreed with the director.
- Attending additional rehearsals as necessary when an actor is unable to be present. If the Principal Actor cannot attend a rehearsal, the swing may be expected to substitute, with adequate notice, if not scheduled to be in rehearsal. The swing may be called upon to share blocking and rehearsal material with the principal actor.
- Checking in with the stage manager via text 90 minutes before each performance.
- Performing with a book in hand at any performance when principals are unable to perform.

Swings may register for TH250, as agreed with the instructor of record/director of production.

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The cast of *The Trees* will include *understudies* who will prepare one of the two principle roles, Sheila or David.

Understudies may be called upon to perform their under-studied role in the case of illness, etc. of the principal actor.

**\*\*NOTE:** If called upon to perform, understudies for WAYGLH will be **expected to perform off book.**

Understudies are expected to attend rehearsals regularly, as agreed upon with the director. Note this may include attending rehearsals when the role they are understudying is called.

*As an understudy, you will be responsible for:*

- Learning the staging and lines of 2 characters.  
Understudies are responsible for staying current on staging and acting changes through the Stage Manager and/or ASMs.
- Setting your baseline rehearsal attendance schedule with the director.

- Attending rehearsals as agreed with the director.
- Attending additional rehearsals as necessary when an actor is unable to be present. If the Principal Actor cannot attend a rehearsal, the understudy may be expected to substitute, with adequate notice, if not scheduled to be in rehearsal.
- Checking in with the stage manager via text 90 minutes before each performance.
- Performing at any performance when principal actors are unable to perform.

Understudies may register for TH250, as agreed with the instructor of record/director of production.