



October 3 & 4, 2025

Waldron Art Center Firebay

**Book By Annalise Cain
Music by Devin McDuffy
Lyrics By Annalise Cain and Devin McDuffy**

A Concert Style Presentation



Cast

Fletcher Blair.....Kamil
Gabe Davis.....Headmaster, Tommy Quinn, Uncle Darius
Emma Downs.....Taolo
Coco Duneman..Professor Lonelyhearts, Cheryl the Apothecarius
Mika Granquist.....Ms. Feywin
Yuki Helms.....Cletus, Raoul
Neveah Johnson.....Nevere
Lucy Parker.....Athena
Kaia Terwilliger.....Hall Monitor Maeve
and
Lauren NekolaStage Direction

Production and Design Team

Stage Direction by Annalise Cain
Musical Direction by Kyla Sherry
Musical Accompaniment by Mihilo Kato
Dramaturgy by Megan Lederman
Lighting Design by Brennen Edwards
Stage Management and Board Operation by Molly Wyatt
Production Management by Marc Tschida

Nevere's Love Potion is subsidized in part by an Open Stages Grant from Constellation Stage & Screen & The City of Bloomington and a special thank you to First Christian Church for the use of their beautiful downtown facility as a rehearsal hall.

Stages Bloomington is a non-profit theatre company that offers exceptional year-round theatre arts education and performance opportunities for children and teens in Bloomington and surrounding counties. Our programs build passion for the arts, promote self-confidence, teach collaboration, and help young people become better students and citizens.

Musical Numbers

Alma Mater - Headmaster Owens, Ms. Feywin, Professor Lonelyhearts

What is Love - The Company

Just One Sip - Nevere

Magic Potion Making - Nevere

Vax Your Familiars - Hall Monitor Maeve, Uncle Darius, Cheryl the Apothecarius

Love Duet - Kamil, Never

Kamil's Love Scat - Kamil

The Confrontation - Taolo, Nevere

The Inside - Ms. Feywin

Most Likely To - The Company

Make Living Possible - Ms. Feywin, Nevere

Synopsis

Nevere is the brightest young witch at Spellwright School for Wizardry, she's got her best friend Taolo, a slightly annoying familiar Cletus, and her loving-if-out-of-touch mom--so why does she feel like something is really wrong? After a school assembly about the dangers of love potions, Nevere snatches her professor's spell book, just a week before the Spring Fling. While giving someone else a love potion may be kinda dicey, what if you could make a love potion . . . for yourself?

NEVERE'S LOVE POTION is a musical about consent, mental health, and the bravery it takes to ask for help.

From the Dramaturg

Before a play can live on the page or on the stage, it must first grow through a process of development. Workshops, edits, readings, and rehearsals shape a new script into something ready to be shared. As soon as a play enters this stage of growth, the playwright begins to hand the story over to collaborators: dramaturgs, actors, designers, and directors. These individuals leave their mark on the world of the play, weaving their discoveries into its fabric. A first cast and creative team make an indelible imprint, one that can echo long into the future, even shaping what eventually makes its way into publication. A joke improvised by an actor, a blocking idea from a director, or a question raised by a dramaturg can shift the trajectory of a character, a relationship, or even the story itself.

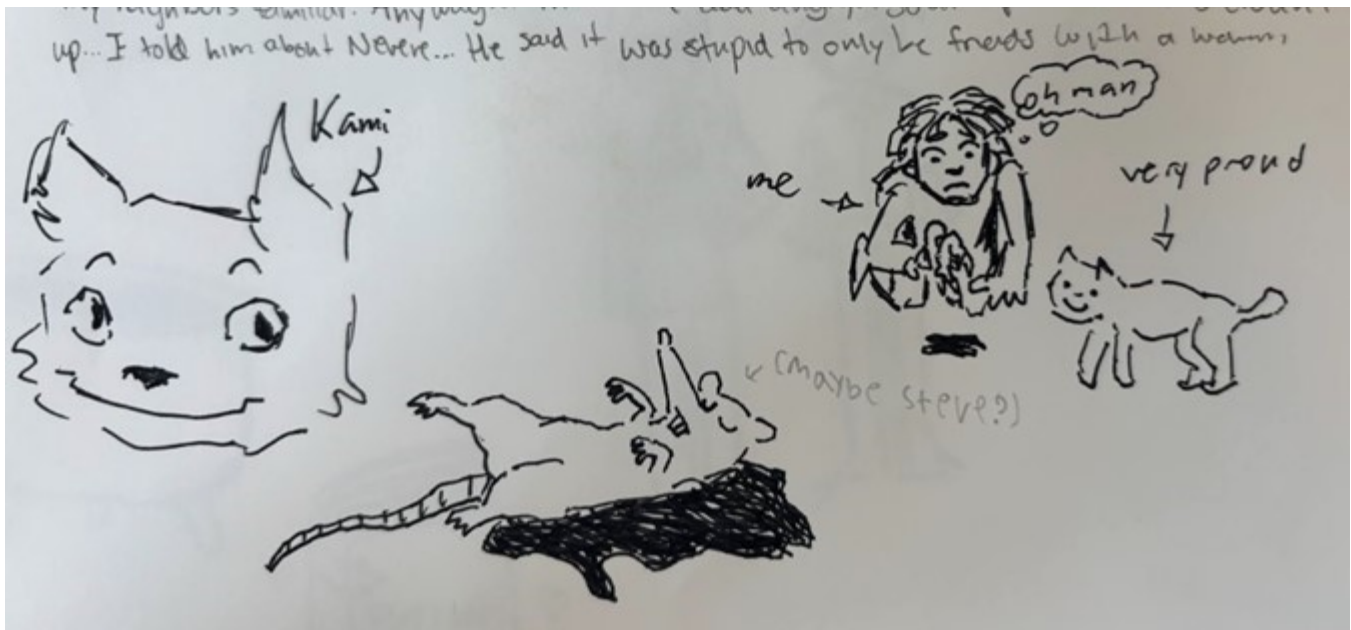
Nevere's Love Potion has been living in this kind of process with the performers you are about to see. Over the past few weeks, they have done far more than learn lines, staging, and music. Through writing exercises, improvisations, and collaborative discussions, they have created lore, backstory, and emotional depth for these characters that now pulses within the play. Each rehearsal brought new discoveries, each choice deepening what this story could become. What you see today is not only the playwright's work, but also the collective artistry of the first group of creators who brought Nevere's Love Potion to life. As part of their process, the actors wrote diary entries from the perspectives of Nevere and Taolo. They also wrote things their characters might want to say to each other but cannot. We are including some of these excerpts here to give you a window into the discoveries that shaped the story you are about to see.

"I came home and me and Cletus made a huge mess playing around with potion ingredients. He doesn't know a newt's eye from dragon's pus, I swear."

"Dear Diary, you know Nevere? The girl I want to be friends with? We sat together at lunch . . . And we talked, I guess? Is it dumb writing in a diary? Is it girly? I don't know . . . But I have a lot to say. I went home today. The same 3 mile walk. I got inside and dad wasn't there. He didn't come home till 11 pm. Dinner, I skipped. Kami (my cat) he brought me a dead mouse . . . hope it wasn't my neighbor's familiar. Anyway . . . that made dad angry . . . so at 11 pm I had to clean it up . . . I told him about Nevere. He said it was stupid to only be friends with a woman."

"I don't know why, but even with an A+ in potions I feel like I could do better. Maybe it's just me wanting to be different from my mom. I love her, but being a teacher's daughter can be a bit much."

"I wish I had the energy everyone else does. Sometimes it feels like the world is moving around me, and I can't catch up. All I can do is just sit and wait for it to slow down."



From the Dramaturg (Continued)

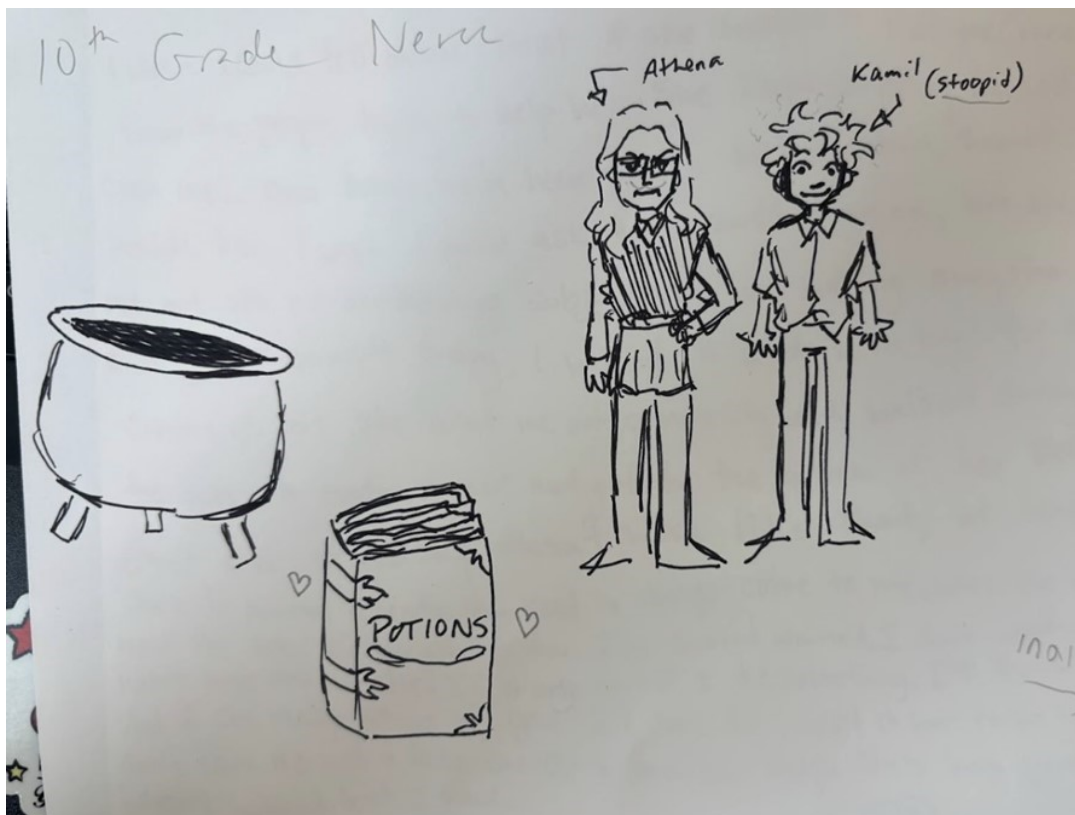
"anyway my mom invited Nevere over for dinner tonight, we're having fried pegasus and frog feet! Chocolate popping phoenix claws, my favorite! And hers too apparently. I hope I was able to make her feel better with the candy, and that dinner will cheer her up, too. It's funny (or not funny, I guess, but interesting . . .) because I always thought Nevere was so cool! And she is! But I was so intimidated by her. Maybe she needs a friend as much as I do."

"Today wasn't bad. Nevere's still angsty, but I ran into gym shorts guy. I recently learned his name is Raoul. I tried starting conversation but he doesn't seem to like talking about anything that isn't broomball. Kamil was in gym today too, which is shocking because he's been out sick all week. I guess that's what happens when your family is anti-vax."

"I've had so much going on inside my own head and a million 'I'm sorry's' couldn't cover up how much I've neglected your friendship these past months. I didn't even tell Cletus how much I've been struggling. All this time I've wanted so badly to talk to you but I kept thinking 'If I can't understand myself, how could he?'"

"I'm scared, worried. I don't want to lose her. I won't have anyone else. If it was me? If I did something, I'll fix it however I can. And if she really wants me gone? I'll leave. All I want is for her to be happy. For her to smile when it's not a fake one. Or to hear her laugh. She's been quiet. She acts like I haven't noticed, but I have."

Megan Lederman



Cast Bios

Fletcher Blair (Kamil) has never been in a staged reading before, but he couldn't have asked for a better first experience. The cast of this show is incredible, and the script and music knocked his socks off. Fletcher's most recent credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Love's Labour's Lost*. In a little over a month he'll be playing Mr. Bingley in Theater South's production of *Pride and Prejudice*. ENJOY THE SHOW!!!!

Gabe Davis (Headmaster, Tommy Quinn, Uncle Darius) is a sophomore at Harmony School and this is his fifth show with Stages. Most recently, he was Von Sochocky in the Stages Production of *Radium Girls*. He loved working with the cast of this show, which was already full of friends and previous cast mates.

Emma Downs (Taolo) is currently a Sophomore at Bloomington South. They just finished their first show *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as Mitch Mahoney. They're excited to be a part of *Nevere's Love Potion* and work with new and old faces! They can't wait to bring the magic world to you guys!

Coco Duneman (Professor Lonelyhearts, Cheryl the Apothecarius) is currently a senior at Bloomington High School North, and was most recently in the Stages production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as Olive Ostrovsky. *She's so grateful to get to work with this team, and so excited for this experience!*

Mika Granquist (Ms. Feywin) is now a senior at Bloomington North and this is her second show with Stages! She recently finished *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* as Marcy Park and her Stages debut. *It's always been a pleasure working with this team, and she'd like to thank her friends for making the process so enjoyable!*

Yuki Helms (Cletus, Raoul) is a junior at Harmony School and is appearing in their second show with Stages having appeared as Reader in the fall 2024 production of *The Radium Girls*.

Neveah Johnson (Nevere) is a senior at Bloomington High School North and she is excited to start her senior theatre season off with a bang! Neveah loved getting to play Nevere in this show alongside her friends and she hopes you enjoy watching as much as she enjoyed performing.

Lucy Parker (Athena) is currently a senior at Bloomington High School South and is very excited to be working on *Nevere's Love Potion*! Lucy is excited to work with Stages again and has grown up doing musical theater. She can't wait to show everyone the amazing world of this show.

Kaia Terwilliger (Hall Monitor Maeve) is currently a junior at Bloomington North, and is very excited to be a part of *Nevere's Love Potion*! Last summer she played Rona Lisa Peretti in her first Stages show: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*! She has had the best 5 weeks with her friends in this workshop and is so glad for this amazing experience!

Production Team Bios

Annalise Caine ((Playwright, Librettist, Director)) Hailing from the backroads of Western Massachusetts, is a playwright, teaching artist and director. She's currently the Teen Programming Coordinator with Stages Bloomington, and curates a monthly free play reading series as a collective member at Redbud Books. You can catch the next Redbud community play reading (Feeding Beatrice by Kirsten Greenidge) on October 8th at 7 pm, and the world premiere of her one act *The Rebound* will be going up at Red Theater in Chicago this November. Thank you to Marc, Kyla, Mihilo, Megan, Peter, Molly, Devin, Rory, Cindy, Laura, the board, the whole cast and all her roommates for being patient while Devin and she composed the music in their living room! BFA '18, Boston University. MFA '23, Indiana University.

Megan Gray Lederman (Dramaturgy) (she/her) is a theater artist and third-year M.F.A. Dramaturgy candidate with Indiana University's Department of Theater, Drama, and Contemporary Dance. Megan received two Bachelor's of Arts from George Mason University one in Theater with a concentration in Theater Studies and another in English with a concentration in Literature. At George Mason, Megan was the Company Manager of The Mason Players, George Mason University's theater company. Past credits include - DC CAPITAL FRINGE: *The Road to the End* (Director) INDIANA UNIVERSITY: *Legally Blonde* (Dramaturg), *Fu**ing A* (Dramaturg), *Pipeline* (Dramaturg). Instagram: @megangraylederman

Mihilo Kato (Pianist/Accompanist) Born and raised in Los Angeles, is currently a BM student at the Jacobs School of Music with Professor Jean-Louis Haguénauer, and is also working on a minor in conducting. She loves playing and collaborating with other artists, and has performed in chamber ensembles, orchestra pits, and as an accompanist to instrumentalists, vocalists, dancers, and animation. She hopes to continue playing and learning with as many people as she can, and is really grateful to be a part of this show— especially because she's a big fan of musical theater! Thank you to Kyla for the frequent rides, continuous positivity, and for being an amazing leader, and to Annalise for creating a story and world that resonated but also healed a part of younger Mihilo.

Devin McDuffy (Librettist, Composer) is a music director, pianist, composer, and performer from Indianapolis. Some of his past work MD work includes: The IUMT 2024 Eclipse Performance, *The Coloring Outside the Lines Cabaret* (IU), *Heathers* (Independent Project), *Spring Awakening* (The District Theatre), *Sweeney Todd* (University Players), and a variety of other projects on campus. He has also played Accordion in *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* (IU MainStage) & *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (IU Summer Theatre) as well as played cello in Constellation's production of *Matilda* last winter.

Kyla Sherry (Music Director) a Chicagoland and Indianapolis native, is overjoyed to be part of this unforgettable production! Her most recent project was with Stages Bloomington as the Assistant Music Director for *the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* Musical Intensive in July of this year. Kyla is currently a fourth-year undergraduate, studying Vocal Performance at the Jacobs School of Music with a minor in Music Theory & History. She would like to thank her friends and family for their never ending support and the entire directing team (Annalise and Mihilo especially) for allowing her the ability to expand her directing expertise in a safe environment.

Molly Wyatt (Stage Manager) has been living her life in the theatre world for the past 4 years, doing shows locally with Bloomington HS North and Stages: Bloomington. She is very happy to be working on *Never's Love Potion* and is very thankful for the wonderful cast and crew! She graduated from Bloomington HS North this past spring and is pursuing theatre education in college.

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Stages Bloomington is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
Donations can be made at www.stagesbloomington.org/donate





October 10-12

Oct 10 @ 7 pm

Oct 11 @ 2 & 7

Oct 12 @ 2

Constellation Playhouse

107 W. 9th Street
Bloomington, IN

Tickets available at www.stagesbloomington.org