

Knight Theater's *Company*
McKenzie Bray | News Editor



Over the J-term, Knight Theater prepared for its yearly theater productions, with performances taking place on the first week of classes. Knight Theater is a student-run organization that allows students to take part of the theater department outside of academics. This includes acting, stage production, and other leadership and managerial roles.

This year, the production that Knight Theater decided to put on was *Company*. The musical follows the main character Robert, a 35-year-old bachelor, as he interacts with his married friends and longs for that special connection himself.

Tyler Blom, director of the production, said, “ I was not aware of *Company* until it was first brought up by our artistic board. At first, I was hesitant about the show, as it seemed too complex and abstract to me based on the initial description. However, once I watched the show on my own, I started to fall in love with it. The aspect that really intrigued me was the unique and fun cast of characters. Each character had a very distinct personality, and I loved watching how these

personalities interacted. Even though there was not a traditional plot, there was still a fun and engaging story that was driven primarily by these personalities.”

Rehearsals for the show began on January 3 and continued nearly every day throughout the month. “Everyone put a ton of time and effort into this show,” Blom added. “We usually met Monday through Saturday for rehearsals, but there were also lines to learn, a set to build, technical elements to put together, and other aspects outside of just rehearsals.”

Lighting Designer Nathan Bekkers confirmed this statement. “As Lighting Designer, I got to see the show progress from concepts on paper to a completed show and see each show from the booth. This show was no easy task for anyone involved. The actors spent long days nearly every day over J-Term in rehearsal, not to mention the effort outside of rehearsal. The designers and directors were also hard at work with making sure that the actors knew what they were doing, being safe, making sure that they could be heard and seen, and overall highlighting the effort and hard work the actors poured into it.”

The cast and crew of *Company* put many long hours into this production, both on stage and off. Actor Caitlyn Kolter, who played Jenny in the production, said, “Preparation for my role included me watching *Company* too many times to count over J-Term and working with our amazing directors in rehearsals on our scenes to get the right fit for our character. This included a lot of long days and trial and error, but I believe the end result is always worth it.”

The production had a total of six shows, including their invite-only performance, and each show reportedly had a good audience turnout.

“My favorite part of putting on this show was watching the cast get more and more accustomed to their roles,” Blom said. “Each cast member worked super hard to develop their character, and they did a fantastic job of making each character unique and fun. They also worked hard to learn how the characters interact with each other, which led to some fun and powerful moments throughout the show.”

“If I could have done anything differently it would only be to have more time with these amazing people,” Kolter added, “because even through long days we are all a family. I don't think anything could have made this experience better.”

With some of the most recent changes at the college, there has been confirmation that the theater department will no longer be available at St. Norbert College after this semester, meaning the college will not be accepting any new theater students, and they will no longer offer any more in-person theater classes.

But what does this mean for Knight Theater? Since it is a student-run organization, nothing is expected to change and student actors will still be able to put on their yearly performances.