



Ballard High School Playmakers raise big questions in *Big Love*

*October 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 7:30 p.m. curtain
Directed and produced by Shawn M. Riley*

SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 -- The Ballard High School Playmakers kick off the Ballard High School 2018-2019 Performing Arts season with the provoking tragicomedy *Big Love*.

Big Love covers high-stakes terrain in the story of Lydia and 49 Greek brides who have fled to an Italian villa to avoid marrying their cousins. The grooms soon follow—ready to claim what they consider theirs. As the characters wait for their wedding day, they raise issues of gender politics, love, domestic violence, and migration. With its modern music and arresting action, the play asks big questions that resonate today: What makes a man, a woman, a human being, a displaced person?

"We chose *Big Love* this year for its portrayal of strong female characters in a volatile situation. The play reflects so many things happening in our country right now - this play is about refugees, gender biases, and violence toward minorities," says Theatre Director Shawn M. Riley.

Inspired by Aeschylus's Greek tragedy *The Suppliants*, *Big Love* was written by Charles Mee and first debuted in 2000. "By harkening back to our dramatic roots, we get to see how much—or how little—humanity has changed in over 2500 years," Riley adds.

Performance Details

Big Love will be performed at the Earl Kelly Center for Performing Arts at Ballard High School, 1418 NW 65th Street, Seattle, WA, 98117; 7:30 p.m. curtain time with one 15-minute intermission.

Tickets

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students/seniors. Advance tickets are now available at <https://showtix4u.com>; (search for "Big Love." Orders must be placed by noon on performance day.) To request discounted season tickets or group tickets, please contact Shawn Riley at smriley@seattleschools.org.

Cast

The cast members of *Big Love* attended many local and regional elementary and middle schools.

Eileen MacDonald — Lydia (attended Whittier and Whitman)
Olivia Knoll — Olympia (attended Lawton and McClure)
Sydney Ohm — Thyona (attended BF Day and Whitman)
Margaux Daniel — Bella (attended John Hay and Hamilton)
Madison Daniel-Smith — Eleanor (attended John Hay and McClure)
Max Berndt — Piero (attended Lowell/Cascadia and Hamilton)
Clara Spain — Leo (attended Loyal Heights and Salmon Bay)
Diego Ortiz — Guiliano (attended school out of state)
Daniel Windus — Constantine (attended Adams and Salmon Bay)
Riley Stowell — Oed (attended Loyal Heights and Salmon Bay)
Gavin Bradler — Nikos (attended Our Lady of Fatima)
Cassidy Murphy — Bride #4
Kyle Fry-Holman — Groom #4
Angela Gervassi-Saga — Bride #5
Olivia Balaban — Stage Manager
Finn Hammen — Assistant Stage Manager
Iz MacMurchie — Costume Designer

About Ballard Performing Arts

The award-winning Ballard High School Performing Arts Program has gained regional, national, and international acclaim for its dynamic and inspired performances. The Music Department includes two concert bands, three concert choirs, two concert orchestras, percussion ensemble, two jazz bands, one jazz choir, multiple chamber ensembles and a marching band of nearly 200 musicians. The Theatre Department offers classes in Technical Theatre and Theatre I and II while the Ballard Playmakers produce two plays and one musical theatre production each year. More than 450 students—approximately one fourth of the school—participate in these music and theatre opportunities. Ballard Performing Arts sets a high standard of excellence for all students, ensembles, and productions while developing individual artistry through the study of high quality repertoire and exceptional performance opportunities. Learn more:

ballardperformingarts.org

Contact

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Ballard Performing Arts

**Earl Kelly Center for Performing Arts at Ballard High School * 1418 NW 65th Street, Seattle WA *
ballardperformingarts.org**

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