

University Guild at Scott Hall

April 6, 2026 1:30

Speaker: Eileen Clancy

Costume Shop Supervisor at Wirtz Center - Northwestern University



Eileen Clancy, Costume Shop Supervisor, may be bringing a marketing director at the Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts, to our program at the University Guild. Maybe taking some videos? Prepare for your closeup! No costumes are required but if you want to wear one, go for it.

Wirtz Center web site: <https://wirtz.northwestern.edu/>

For easy reading, here is information to share about a recent NU production of Man of La Mancha. From NU's website:

There's no shortage of imagination at Northwestern. Students pursue music, literature, dance, visual arts and more, creating a robust artistic environment with many avenues for expression. For theater department chair Henry Godinez, though, the magic happens when all those artistic disciplines come together to realize one vision: a theatrical performance. In 2025, he gathered a team of students and staff and read from the script of the famous 1965 Broadway musical Man of La Mancha:

When life itself seems lunatic, who knows where madness lies? Perhaps to be too practical is madness. To surrender dreams — this may be madness. ... And maddest of all, to see life as it is, and not as it should be.

With these lines, Godinez kicked off the first design meeting for the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts' production of Man of La Mancha. Students would go on to build a set from scratch; design unique costumes, props and lighting rigs; and rehearse for hours on end to make this dream a reality.

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts at Northwestern's flagship campus in Evanston annually mounts more than 40 productions in theatre, music theatre, and dance. Undergraduate actors, managers, and playwrights, alongside graduate designers, directors, and dramaturgs, collaborate on works both classic and contemporary for audiences of all ages. Productions are staged in the Wirtz's four venues—the 439-seat Ethel M. Barber Theater, the 288-seat Josephine Louis Theater, the 100-seat Hal and Martha Hyer Wallis Theater, the 100-seat Mussetter-Struble Theater, and two additional black box spaces, as well as in the University's 1,000-seat Cahn Auditorium. The facility includes a 7,800-square-foot scene and paint shop, a 2,500-square-foot costume shop, a lighting shop, wet and dry design shops, computer labs, seminar rooms, and rehearsal spaces.

<https://www.facebook.com/WirtzCenter>

