

Theatre Arts

Selected Student: Johnny Waaler

Submitted by: Katie Laris

Johnny Waaler is highly regarded throughout our department by fellow students, staff and faculty as a powerful and positive student leader. His work ethic, kindness, talent and commitment are manifest in every project he takes on. He has made contributions to our department in many areas. He has excelled in all classes including costume technology, directing and lighting. He has offered support in the classroom as a teaching assistant. His demeanor is consistently professional and he is able to articulate his vision with clarity. Most memorably, Johnny has created believable, lovable and noble characters in such plays as *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Last Lifeboat* and *Sense and Sensibility*. His enthusiasm for theatre, his integrity and his generosity of spirit have made a lasting impact on our program.

Johnny's Words of Gratitude:

I would like to start off by thanking the entire faculty of the theater arts department. Each member of this department has helped me grow as a person and an actor. I am so grateful to have spent these years developing a relationship with each one of them. I have learned so many wonderful things that have helped me better myself in my craft. I have gained so many beautiful friendships from this community that I hold close to my heart. I would not be who I am today without this department and I am beyond thankful for the impact it has had on my life. Being the recipient of the Outstanding Student of the Year Award is truly an honor. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.