

## What I'm Into: Craig Petersen, 31, actor



Eric Rowley/Juice

Craig Peterson, 31.

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Craig Petersen was bit by the acting bug in high school. As a freshman he was cast in a one-act play - ninth graders weren't supposed to be picked, but Petersen got called up when another actor dropped out. "From the first time I set foot on a stage, I just had a feeling like I had finally found something I was good at," Petersen said. "I was never really athletic."

Petersen has mostly acted in musicals and comedies, so the Theater for a Change production of "The Pillowman" lets him stretch his acting muscles. In the play, which starts Thursday at Grand View's Viking Theatre, he plays Katurian, a writer whose work bears a scary similarity to a series of child murders. "Finding that dark place to pull from has been difficult," Petersen said.

**LIVES** A house in Beaverdale with his girlfriend, Kristin Larson (director of "The Pillowman"), a dog, three cats, and a child on the way.

**ROOTS** Petersen moved to Des Moines two years ago from North Dakota when Larson got a job teaching theater at Grand View.

**RESTAURANTS** Thai Flavors and Waveland Cafe. "You can't beat the Waveland for breakfast."

**MUSIC** Amos Lee, Storyhill. "I didn't like Storyhill before I met Kristin; they're her favorite group. I used to make fun of her. I said it was hippie music. I grew to like it."

**FREE TIME** Singing, writing and playing guitar. "I haven't done much playing since I got to Des Moines. I haven't quite found a group that will put up with my selection of music."

**MOVIES** "I really like 'The Usual Suspects.' I'm still waiting for a movie to shock and entertain me like that one."

**FAVORITE PLAYS** "Proof." "Rabbit Hole." "I just saw a production of that by StageWes. It was marvelous."

**DREAM PART** "I'm looking for anything that will let me show something different. Doing a part in a play like this is a dream."

### "The Pillowman"

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, and March 19-22

**Where:** Grand View University Viking Theatre, 2811 E. 14th St.

**Cost:** \$12 through Iowatix.

**Info:** theaterforachange.com

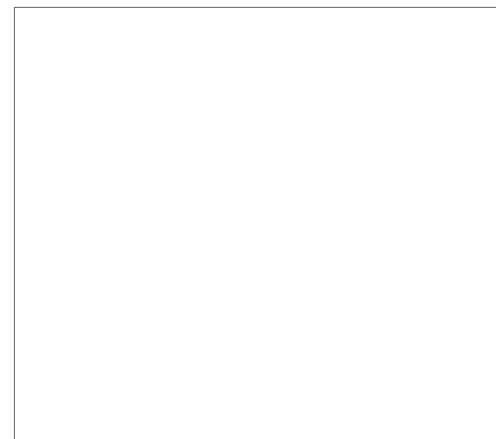
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