

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Theatre Arts & Dance presents

CONNECTION COLLECTION

Directed by Lindsey Abbott, Amara Bailey, Isabelle Barkey, Sabrina Blais, Allison Dominguez, Gabe Fernandez, Avery Flasher-Duzgunes, Joelle Joyner-Wong, John Ruzicka, Miranda Tilley, Avery Wilson

Virtual Performance

November 12-15

Artistic & Production

FACULTY DIRECTOR Danielle Cain

FACULTY MENTORS Theo Bridant, Martha Clarke, Paul Draper

STAGE MANAGERS Elise Terry, Francelle Mariano

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Amanda Krack

PRODUCTION MANAGER Vikki Del Rosario

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Saylor Duckworth

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Theo Bridant

VIDEO EDITOR Theo Bridant

VIRTUAL BACKGROUND DESIGN Kate Smale

SCENE SHOP TECH Russell Wigglesworth

COSTUME DIRECTOR Martha Clarke

COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR Teresa Kopaz

COSTUME DESIGN Carly Bozeman

SOUND DESIGN John Ryall

LIGHTING DESIGN Christopher Peterson

TITLES Charlie Stellar

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST Jana Duncan

Director's Notes

by Danielle Cain

When asked to oversee a collection of scenes for this fall, I knew immediately that the theme tying the pieces together would be "Connection." We were early into quarantine and feeling overwhelmed by the isolation forced on us in the face of the pandemic.

Humxns are social creatures and we share a yearning for connection. So I started looking for plays about plague times, and the social constructs that separate us, and for situations when we so badly need to touch someone.

As I was just starting my search, George Floyd was murdered. The Black Lives Matter movement was of tragic necessity re-invigorated. People all over the world were protesting in the streets, in masks, in despair and in hope.

I began to concentrate on playwrights whose voices are heard less often, feeling that now was a time to explore Connection through a wider lens. Among the nine playwrights featured in *Connection Collection* only one is a straight, cis, white man. What are the stories we listen to? Who are our teachers? What voices fill our ears?

Humxns are also storytellers. We tell the tales of our lives through stories, fashioning beginnings, middles and ends, even when they don't yet exist. In these monologues and scenes, though there are beginnings and middles, we don't know what the ends will look like. But we do know that the characters in these stories, like the theatre artists who created them, will keep reaching out for connection, even when it's hard, even when it's rebuffed, even when it forces us to change.

In addition to the 9 playwrights, the show features 11 directors, 14 actors, 5 designers, and 3 stage managers. And this student ensemble has created a piece of digital theatre to reach beyond the frame and connect with you.

Thank you for joining us.

A monologue from *The Living*

by Anthony Clarvoe

What happens during a plague.

DIRECTED BY Sabrina Blais

WITH Isabelle Barkey, Josiah Pel, Annaliese Van Sickle, Avery Wilson

Start Here

by Suzan-Lori Parks

The place they've come from should have been better than it was, so now they journey forward with hope.

DIRECTED BY John Ruzicka

ARJUNA Avery Wilson

KRISHNA Josiah Pel

One Flea Spare

by Naomi Wallace

Four people quarantined due to the plague find out what connects them (or not).

DIRECTED BY Lindsey Abbott

MR. SNELGRAVE John Ruzicka

BUNCE Avery Wilson

MORSE Allison Dominguez

MRS. SNELGRAVE Annaliese Van Sickle

The Living

by Anthony Clarvoe

John Graunt explains how he can predict the coming of the plague to beleaguered politician John Lawrence.

DIRECTED BY Allison Dominguez

SIR JOHN LAWRENCE Josiah Pel

JOHN GRAUNT Silas Vaughn

Anatomy of a Suicide

by Alice Birch

Carol, who has recently attempted suicide, is at a birthday party. The thirteen year old birthday girl tries to discover why Carol is the way she is.

DIRECTED BY Miranda Tilley

DAISY Maya Pratt-Bauman

CAROL Sabrina Blais

2 Marys

by Suzan-Lori Parks

Two women sitting outside their homes discover what they have in common.

DIRECTED BY Amara Bailey

1ST WOMAN Miranda Tilley

2ND WOMAN Lindsey Abbott

MAN'S VOICE Euan Ashley

BLKS

by Aziza Barnes

BLKS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Imani meets someone at a bar and the two of them dance around attraction, racism, and micro-aggressions.

DIRECTED BY Joelle Joyner-Wong

IMANI Amara Bailey

THAT BITCH ON THE COUCH Lindsey Abbott

Sweat

by Lynn Nottage

Sweat is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

In Reading, PA at a local bar, three people share their differing points of view about a contentious strike.

DIRECTED BY Gabe Fernandez

STAN Silas Vaughn

OSCAR Jose De Leon

TRACEY Euan Ashley

The Thanksgiving Play

by Larissa FastHorse

Four white theatre artists struggle to honor Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month.

DIRECTED BY Avery Wilson

JAXTON Annaliese Van Sickle

LOGAN Euan Ashley

ALICIA Miranda Tilley

CADEN John Ruzicka

Angels in America

by Tony Kushner

In a drug-fueled mutual hallucination Prior (recently diagnosed with AIDS) and Harper (a Mormon valium addict) connect, disconnect, and reconnect.

DIRECTED BY Isabelle Barkey

PRIOR Jose De Leon

HARPER Allison Dominguez

A monologue from The Living

by Anthony Clarvoe

What we learned from the plague.

DIRECTED BY Sabrina Blais

WITH Annaliese Van Sickle, Silas Vaughn, Avery Wilson, Isabelle Barkey



EVERT B. PERSON THEATRE is an extraordinary learning laboratory, a fully-equipped live performance space containing professionally staffed costume and scene shops, where SSU students learn skills essential to the art of live dance, music and theater performance. For today's show, through performance-related coursework, the students have spent weeks in this building hammering, harmonizing, acting, welding, stitching, and cabling, under the mentorship of professional staff, designers, and faculty. We hope you enjoy the product of the students' learning and skill-building process.

2020-21 EVERT B. PERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

ACTING Lindsey Abbott, Maya Pratt-Bauman, Silas Vaughn

DANCE Abigail Eissman, Kai Encisco-Givhan, Angeles Higareda,

Alessandra Balestrieri-Jennings, Brandon Leong

TECHNICAL THEATRE Elise Clark, Saylor Duckworth, Francelle Mariano

THEATER STUDIES Joelle Joyner-Wong, John Ruzicka

CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT **Christine Cali**

Acting

PROGRAM DIRECTOR **Paul Draper**

Beginning Acting, Scene Study, Characterization, Non-realistic Style, Chekhov, Shakespeare, Directing, Theatre History

Danielle Cain Voice, Scene Study, Comedy of Manners, Shakespeare, Audition

Marie Ramirez Downing Introduction to Acting, Advanced Scene Study, Voice, Movement, Devised Theatre Workshop

Laura Odeh Beginning Acting, Career Prep and Planning, Physical Theatre

Doyle Ott Critical Thinking, Children's Theater, Humanities Learning Community, Commedia dell'Arte, Feldenkrais, Theater History

Dance

PROGRAM CO-DIRECTORS **Christine Cali and Kristen Daley**

Christine Cali Contemporary Technique, Choreography, Global Perspectives in Dance, Improvisation/Somatic Practices, Theatre in Action, Critical Thinking, Actor/Dancer Collaboration, Dance Ensemble, Spring Dance Choreography, Teaching Methodologies and Dance for Everybody

Kristen Daley Contemporary Technique, Anatomy for Dance, Choreography, Dance History & Criticism, Yoga, Dance Conditioning, Actor/Dancer Collaboration, Dance Ensemble, Spring Dance Choreography, Global Perspectives in Dance

Jennifer Jaffe Ballet

Nancy Lyons Professor Emeritus

Farah McAdam Dance Ensemble, Hip Hop

Heather Visser Jazz

Technical Theatre

PROGRAM DIRECTOR **Anthony Bish** Scene Design, Light Design, Prop Design, Stage Management, Portfolio

Theo Bridant Light Design

Martha Clarke Costume Construction, Costume Design, Stage Management

Peter Crompton Design for the Stage

Theatre Studies

PROGRAM DIRECTOR **Scott Horstein** Dramaturgy, Contemporary Theatre, Playwriting, Research Methods, Theatre History, Humanities Learning Community

Judy Navas Professor Emeritus

2020-21 Guest Artists

Matt Langlois Virtual Design Fall Dance

Farah McAdam Virtual Performance Director Fall Dance

Charlie Stellar Virtual Title Design Connection Collection

DEAN, SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES Hollis Robbins, Ph.D.

CPA Professional Staff

CPA PRODUCTION MANAGER Vikki Del Rosario

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER Tai Russotti

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC Brooke Tester

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS & DANCE Douangta Sorensen

ASSISTANT TO THE DEAN Leigh McTaggart

PIANO TECHNICIAN Michael Hagen

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH ANALYST Linda Eichhorn

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST Jana Duncan

COSTUME DIRECTOR Martha Clarke

COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR Teresa Kopaz

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Theo Bridant

ACCOMPANISTS Jesse Olsen Bay, Yvonne Wormer