OUR MISSION

The School of Theatre & Dance at Texas Tech University fosters the highest standards of scholarship and creative activity and provides opportunities for students to work actively in both areas. We champion training and education in a breadth of specialized programs, encourage students to cross boundaries between them, and prepare students for careers in both practice and pedagogy. By integrating the practical and the scholarly, the school serves as a vital force in the cultural and intellectual life of our society.
OUR VISION
The School of Theatre & Dance will exhibit and promote the highest standards of artistry, professionalism, diversity, and collaboration in arts training, education, and scholarship.

ACCESSIBILITY POLICY
Texas Tech University provides program accessibility for members of the public. Those requiring accessible materials in Braille, large print, tape, interpreter, or Telecommunications Devices for the deaf are requested to notify the university at least 72 hours before the need for such services in order that time will be adequate for their preparation.

MEMBERSHIPS
The School of Theatre and Dance is a member of the Association of Arts Administration Educators (AAAE), American College Dance Association (ACDA), Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE), International Theatre Institute (ITI), Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF), Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC), Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC), Texas Educational Theatre Association (TETA), and the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT).

THANK YOU
The School of Theatre & Dance 2020/2021 production season is made possible by Texas Tech University and the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts.
DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Mark Charney | Director of the School of Theatre & Dance

Our season selection committee met last year, as usual, and came up with a slate of plays, musicals, and dances that we felt were challenging, expansive, reflective of the world around us, and especially pertinent in an election year. We gave this season a theme, *The Personal and the Political*, based on through-lines we felt connected the plays selected and the dances to be choreographed. Celebrating the season, we even shot our first video, breaking a piñata to reveal the titles.

This was all pre-pandemic, mind you.

In June, we wrote a plan, one we hoped that would allow us to share these works with limited audience members in a reduced, safety-conscious capacity, and that offered our designers a partial build, our actors opportunities to develop characters and serve narratives all the while masked and six-feet apart. We knew these compromises were not ideal, especially for our audiences, but we believe strongly that education is best served by process, and that this season plan was educationally exciting, posing obstacles that our community is intent on creatively overcoming.

But in August, when the COVID numbers in Texas continued to increase, our Acting/Directing and Design areas revised that plan, intent on retaining our emphasis on process but also increasing measures to ensure safety. We were loathe to abandon our live audiences, and just as, if not more, upset to rehearse online. All the time, though, no matter
the compromises, we were intent on making certain to privilege education for our students and we knew our audiences would understand.

Our season, *The Personal and the Political* has, ironically, grown both more personal and political in the last few months. Rather than be constricted by the choices made pre-pandemic, we are embracing what can only be called a fluid season, one that is continuing to evolve based not only on the world around us, but the community within the Maedgen. In an effort truly to respond to our reactions to current events, we have already abandoned some titles, chosen new ones, deconstructed others, and are consistently shifting the means by which we rehearse and share them.

Every personal decision has a political repercussion.

The works you will see this season navigate the muddy waters of the political world in which we live, even more so impacted by our personal journeys. What better way to make sense of the world in which we live than embracing art that explores the consequences of our choices while simultaneously reflecting upon our shared humanity?

This season, we hope you will join us virtually to experience the innovations and creativity of our students and faculty. We promise a season full of surprises, one like no other in the history of our program.
2020/2021 SEASON

THE PERSONAL & THE POLITICAL

New Voices Series
20/20 Vision: The Violet Response Project
Directed by Hillary Boyd
October 8–11, 2020

New Voices Series
The Blue Flower
By Bryce Real | Directed by Jesse Jou
October 22–25, 2020

Henrik Ibsen’s An Enemy of the People
A New Adaptation by Brad Birch | Directed by Bill Gelber
November 5–8, 2020

New Voices Series
Fall Dance Festival
November 20, 2020
Sonnet for an Old Century
By José Rivera | Directed by April Langehennig
February 11–14, 2021

Blown Youth
By Dipika Guha | Directed by Leah Johnson
February 25–28, 2021

DanceTech
March 2021

New Voices Series
Frontier Fest
April 8–11, 2021

A Chorus Line
Conceived and Originally Directed & Choreographed by Michael Bennett
Book by James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante, Music by Marvin Hamlisch
Lyrics by Edward Kleban; Co-Choreographed by Bob Avian
Directed by Ronald Dean Nolen
Musical Direction by Casey Keenan Joiner
Choreography by Kyla Olson
April 29 - May 2, 2021
DanceTech

theatre.ttu.edu
The J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
School of Theatre & Dance
presents

DANCE TECH 2021

Artistic Direction
Mallory Prucha
Joshua Whitt

Choreography
Karson Hood
Ali Duffy
Tanya Calamoneri
Kyla Olson
Yvonne Racz Key
Charlotte Boye-Christensen

Editor, Visual Effects Artist,
and Digital Content Creator
Chris Wood

Stage Manager
Tiffany Viesca

A Special Thanks to the Stars and Stripes Drive-in of Lubbock
Still Waiting...

Choreography and Performance: Karson Hood
Concept & Direction: Kyla Olson
Music: "What A Wonderful World (Live)" by Nick Cordero & Michael J. Moritz, Jr. This work is dedicated to the 500,000+ Americans who have died from the coronavirus, our front-line workers who are keeping us safe, and the arts community who has suffered greatly during this pandemic.

Politico Talent Show

Choreography: Ali Duffy
Assistant Choreographer: Rachel Greim
Performers: Hannah Baxter, Elena Beard, Rebecca Brug, Kamrye Collins, Megan Cooley, Deborah DeFarias, Lupe Garcia, Emma Hale, Nicholas Jaquez, Emily Lowke, Mia Thompson, and Carlos Medina-Maldonado as "The Host"
Understudy: Cody Blythe
Film Editor and Animations: Chris Wood
Original Script Development: Ali Duffy and Carlos Medina-Maldonado
"USA's A Dumpster Fire" Song Lyrics: Ali Duffy
"USA's a Dumpster Fire" Recording and Sound Mixing: Aaron Prentice
Music: "La Comay" by Sonora Carruseles (edited), "We Didn't Start the Fire" by Billy Joel (karaoke version, edited), "Bubble Bee" by The Fly Guy Five (edited), "Our Favorite Son" by Keith Carradine and Cady Huffman (edited), "Prelude in B Minor: Andante" composed by Charles Tomlinson Griffes and performed by Michael Lewin
Costume Designer: Mallory Prucha
Lighting Designer: Jacob Francisco
Camera Operator: Ali Duffy

to catch a bird

Director: Tanya Calamoneri
Creators and Performers: Hallie Anderson, Kamrye Collins, Lindsey Couvillon, Lupe Garcia, Emily Lowke, Anna Rubio
Videography: Christian Ruiz
Video Editing: Chris Wood
Sound Score: Seth Warren-Crow
Aerial Choreographer: Sarah Baker
Costumes: Mallory Prucha

Shot on location at TTU Equestrian Center and Aerial Atmosphere
Special thanks to Kim Lindsey and Sarah Baker for letting us film at their sites!
**DIV/DED**

**Choreography:** Kyla Olson and Performers  
**Performers:** Mary Emily Anderson, Hannah Baxter, Jessica Garcia, Krystyna Gray, Emma Hale, Cheyanne Ibarra, Jadyn Owens, Anna Rubio, Samara Shavrick, Michael Yarick  
**Music:** "Politik" by Coldplay  
**Poem Excerpt:** "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman  
**Costume Design:** Mallory Prucha  
**Videographer:** Kyla Olson  
**TTU Public Art featured:**  
"As Far As the Eyes Can See" by Ilan Averbuch,  
"Comma" by Po Shu Wang,  
"Illuminated Arboreal Data Codes" by Koryn Rolstad,  
"Oblique Intersection" by Lead Pencil Studio,  
"Zephyr" by Marc Forne

**The Ball**

**Choreography:** Yvonne Racz Key  
**Performers:** Sydney Rood, Deborah DeFarias, Brynn Hunt, Lauren Bassett, Emily Lowke, David Postlewate, Daniel DiPinto  
**Costumes:** Mallory Prucha  
**Location:** Ballet Lubbock at Buddy Holly Hall  
Performing Center for Arts and Sciences  
**Make-up:** Nathalie Van Gilder and Meagan Russell  
**Videography:** Christian Ruiz  
**Editor:** Chris Wood

**Plane**

**Choreography:** Charlotte Boye-Christensen  
**Performers:** Sydney Rood and Emma Hale  
**Costumes:** Mallory Prucha  
**Composer:** Jóhann Jóhannsson  
**Sound Engineer:** Adam Day  
**Videographer and Piece Editor:** Christian Ruiz
OUR SCHOOL

MILESTONES IN OUR HISTORY

Within a month after Texas Technical College began classes, the Sock and Buskin society began producing short plays, and by April 1926 Tech was the home of a chapter of the theatre honor society, Alpha Psi Omega.

Since its first major production, *The Youngest*, in May 1928, Texas Tech University Theatre has produced hundreds of plays for the Texas Tech and Lubbock communities. More than 1,000 informal and developmental productions have been presented by students, including many original scripts.

Established to serve as an educational resource for Texas Tech University and a cultural resource for the Lubbock community, Tech Theatre offered courses as early as 1930.

In April 1964, the University Theatre Building was inaugurated with a production of *Romeo and Juliet* in a state-of-the-art, 400-seat proscenium auditorium, and since that time the likes of Barry Corbin, G. W. Bailey, and countless others have trod across its boards. This building, now known as the Charles E. Maedgen, Jr. Theatre, has hosted over 170 University Theatre productions and many theatrical competitions.

In 1966, the Department of Speech and Theatre Arts developed a theatre specialization; it began offering theatre Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in 1969. That year, Theatre enrolled 29 undergraduate majors and 4 Master of Arts students.
In 1972, Theatre participated in the creation of the one-of-a-kind interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Fine Arts degree and developed and offered courses for that program in 1973. Beginning with three students in 1973, the Fine Arts Doctoral program has since graduated 81 students.

Theatre Arts became an independent department in 1977 and implemented the Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degree programs in 1982. Texas Tech Theatre is one of only two theatre departments in the state to offer all the traditional degrees in Theatre Arts, the only one with an interdisciplinary Fine Arts Doctorate, and one of only three in the Southwest to offer the Ph.D.

In 1986, the University Theatre building was expanded to its present size with the addition of a suite of offices and a 100-seat, thrust-stage lab theatre.

In 1992 the Dance Division, housed up through then within Health, Physical Education and Recreation, became part of the Department of Theatre, making us the Department of Theatre and Dance. Dance continues to have a strong tradition within the Department, University, and region.

In 1998, the main-stage theatre was updated by the installation of a state-of-the-art lighting system.
Through the generosity of Mrs. Louise Maedgen, in memory of her late husband, the Department was able to begin renovations on the lobby of the Mainstage in 1999; formally dedicated in 2002 as the Charles E. Maedgen, Jr. Theatre the new lobby provides an elegant and comfortable welcome to our students and patrons.

The summer of 2000 marked the 75th Anniversary of Theatre at Texas Tech University. The celebrations were highlighted by an all class reunion and the formation of the Department’s first official alumni chapter.

2004 marked the Department’s accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Theatre. As in its beginnings, the Department of Theatre and Dance continues to remain committed to the education of young theatre artists and the production of a wide range of productions that challenge, excite, and entertain our audiences.

A new home was needed for our Dance program, and in the fall of 2012 the Creative Movement Studio was dedicated.

In 2013, the Department of Theatre and Dance replaced the old summer rep model with WildWind Performance Laboratory, a lab which offers students in theatre and dance the opportunity to experiment with the process of theatre making, giving them opportunities to study with
professionals in all aspects of theatre from around the country. This signature program will continually provide students with one-on-one work with some of the best theatre and dance minds in the nation.

Ten years after NAST accreditation, in 2014, our Dance program earned accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Dance and less than one year later in the Spring of 2015 we hosted the South-Central region’s American College Dance Association conference.

In August of 2015, the Department of Theatre and Dance became the School of Theatre and Dance.

August 11, 2017, the School of Theatre and Dance broke ground on the first phase of an expansion to the facilities, to include a Black Box theatre space, scene shop expansion, two new rehearsal rooms, three classrooms, a collaboration design lab, a CADD lab, faculty offices, a new main office suite and a grand lobby.

The School of Theatre and Dance celebrated the completion of Phase One of the new Theatre and Dance Complex with a ribbon-cutting on October 4, 2019.
CURRENT FACULTY

Texas Tech University School of Theatre & Dance

Mark Charney, PhD
Director | Professor of Playwriting

Mark J. Charney serves as Director of the School of Theatre & Dance, as well as National Director of Theatre Journalism and Advocacy/the Dramaturgy Initiative for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. A playwright, Dr. Charney’s plays have been performed in NY, DC, LA, Prague, and most recently, Ankara, Turkey. His Power Behind the Palette won the David Mark Cohen award. Dr. Charney just finished 18 years as Associate Director of the National Critics Institute at the O’Neill Theatre Center, and has leadership roles with both the National Association of Schools of Theatre and Artistic Director of the International Association of Schools of Southeast Asia. Creator of WildWind Performance Lab and the Marfa Intensive, he now serves as Executive Director of both.

Andrea Bilkey, MFA
Associate Professor | Design/Technology

Andrea Bilkey is a designer, associate professor, and associate dean of undergraduate and curricular issues for the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts. She has spent over 38 years in the performing arts exploring backstage work, performing, and playing violin for several years with the greater twin cities youth symphonies in Minneapolis before heading to school for stage design and the Juilliard School for an electrics internship. Andrea’s focus and creative endeavors include lighting design, computer drafting and design, theatre planning, and performance photography. Her research interests include the history of lighting and she actively researches at the Stage Lighting Archives at Pennsylvania State University. Andrea is on the Board of Directors for USITT and is an editor for the journal Theatre Design & Technology.
Charlotte Boye-Christensen, MFA  
Associate Professor | Head of Dance

Charlotte Boye-Christensen, a native of Copenhagen, received her MFA from Tisch School of the Arts in NYC. Charlotte has created new work for Milwaukee Ballet, Ballet West, Singapore Dance Theatre, Danish Dance Theatre, Ballet de Camaguey in Cuba, Alliance Francaise in Singapore, Metropolitan Museum of Photography in Tokyo, The Bauhaus, The new Opera in Copenhagen and more. She was responsible for creating a forward-looking repertoire for a decade as Artistic Director of Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. In 2013, she formed NOW-ID, an interdisciplinary contemporary dance company which has toured nationally and internationally to critical acclaim. Charlotte has choreographed and taught at universities and conservatories worldwide and is the recipient of several awards for her work.

Tanya Calamoneri, PhD  
Assistant Professor | Dance

Tanya Calamoneri is a dancer, choreographer, and dance cultural studies scholar. Her research is published in Routledge’s Theatre, Dance and Performance Training Journal, Dance Chronicle, Journal of Dance Education and a chapter in the Routledge Intercultural Actor and Performer Training. She is writing a book on butoh in the United States and Mexico. Her New York-based company, Company SoGoNo, was funded by NYSCA, NYFA, AMC Live Music for Dance, and recognized by New York Innovative Theatre Awards. Previously, in San Francisco, she was Executive Director of Dancers’ Group, and in New York, Co-Executive Director of The Field and Project Manager of the State Department's cultural diplomacy program, DanceMotion USA, administrated by BAM.
Dorothy Chansky, PhD
Professor | History/Theory/Criticism

Dorothy Chansky is a President’s Excellence in Research Professor at TTU and was founding Director of Tech’s Humanities Center. She teaches on the History/Theory/Criticism track in Theatre. "Doctordot" is immediate past President of the American Theatre and Drama Society and current Vice President for Publications of the American Society for Theatre Research. She is a 2020 inductee into membership in the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. She is author of *Composing Ourselves: The Little Theatre Movement and the American Audience* (Southern Illinois UP, 2004) and *Kitchen Sink Realisms: Domestic Labor, Dining, and Drama on the American State* (University of Iowa Press, 2015); co-editor of *Food and Theatre on the World Stage* (Routledge, 2015), and most recently, co-editor of *Conversations With Food* (Vernon Press, 2020). Her current project is a book about representations of dementia on the American stage of the past hundred years.

Linda Donahue, PhD
Associate Professor | Head of Arts Administration

Linda Donahue teaches arts administration and is currently active in both arts management and play directing. *American Theatre Magazine* and *Stage Directions* noted the arts administration program as one of the top programs in the US. Her expertise in arts management, funding, marketing, advocacy, and community engagement is accompanied by current or past board memberships at Texans for the Arts, Southwest Theatre and Film Association, and Texas Non Profit Theatres, as well as service as a grant evaluator (Texas Commission for the Arts) and the Steering Committee of the Prague Playhouse (Czech Republic). She has led study abroad trips to England, Spain and the Czech Republic and presented lectures in Granada, Barcelona, Athens, London, Leeds, Liverpool, Toronto, Turin, Bologna, Belgrade, and Dubai.

Ali Duffy, PhD
Associate Professor | Dance

Ali Duffy is the founder and Artistic Director of Flatlands Dance Theatre. Her written scholarship was recently published in the *Journal of Dance Education*, *Research in Dance Education*, and *Dance Education in Practice*. She is working on a forthcoming book about careers in dance and a book chapter for inclusion in the forthcoming *Dancing Across the Life Span*. She receives commissions for choreography, master classes, and lectures across the U.S., including recently at the University of South Florida, UNC Charlotte, and Lindenwood University. TTU honors include Integrated Scholar award, Teaching Academy induction, Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, and a New Faculty Award. Dr. Duffy holds a PhD from Texas Woman’s University, an MFA from UNC Greensboro, and a BA from UNC Charlotte.
Genevieve Durham DeCesaro, MFA
Professor | Dance

Genevieve Durham DeCesaro is Interim Dean of the J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual and Performing Arts and Professor of Dance. Her choreography has been commissioned and performed across the country, with notable presentations at Virginia Tech, Spelman College, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. She served as Director of the South-Central Region of the American College Dance Association from 2012 through 2018 and is a Visiting Evaluator for the National Association of Schools of Dance. She maintains an active performance career and focuses her research in areas related to effecting cultural change through dance and other arts. Her book, *Ordinary Wars: Doing Transdisciplinary Research*, coauthored with noted social scientist Dr. Elizabeth Sharp, was published in 2016.

Bill Gelber, PhD
Associate Professor | Acting/Directing

Bill Gelber is an Associate Professor of Theatre who teaches acting, directing, pedagogy, and period styles, including Shakespeare and his contemporaries. He has a Ph.D. in Theatre History from the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied with Oscar Brockett. He has been published in the *Brecht Jahrbuch* as well as the *Texas Theatre Journal* and in *Early Modern Literary Studies*. His essay, “A Ha in Shakespeare” appears in *Shakespeare Expressed: Page, Stage, and Classroom*. His forthcoming book *Engaging with Brecht: Making Theatre in the 21st Century* is to be published by Bloomsbury Methuen Drama. Dr. Gelber was recently inducted into the Texas Tech University Teaching Academy.

Andrew Gibb, PhD
Associate Professor | Head of History/Theory/Criticism

Andrew Gibb is the area head for theatre history, theory, and criticism in the School of Theatre and Dance. His scholarship focuses on the US West, and how performance in the region has been shaped by unique intersections of race, class, and geography. He is author of the book *Californios, Anglos, and the Performance of Oligarchy in the U.S. West*, and has published essays in scholarly journals including *Theatre History Studies*, *Comparative Drama, the Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism, Theatre Symposium*, and the *Texas Theatre Journal*, as well as in the edited volume *Querying Difference in Theatre History*. He earned his Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara and an M.F.A. at the University of Illinois.
Rebecca Gilman, MFA
Professor | Head of Playwriting
Rebecca Gilman’s plays have been produced by the Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre, Royal Court Theatre, Lincoln Center Theatre, Public Theater, Manhattan Theatre Club, New York Theatre Workshop, Hampstead Theatre, and Manhattan Class Company. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, The Roger L. Stevens Award from the Kennedy Center Fund for New American Plays, The Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright, The George Devine Award, and The American Theatre Critics Association’s ATCA/Steinberg New Play Award. She was named a finalist for the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for her play, *The Glory of Living*. In 2016 she was inducted into the Alabama Writer’s Hall of Fame. Ms. Gilman is an Artistic Associate at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago and a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Charles Harmon, PhD
Professor of Practice | History/Theory/Criticism
Charles Harmon teaches script analysis and interpretation to graduate students and undergraduate theater majors. His background is in American literary history and cultural theory, as well as creative writing, and he has taught at Drake University, Loyola University Chicago, and Northwestern University. His writing has appeared in *Mosaic*, *The Southern Literary Journal*, and *The Missouri Review*, among other places, and he has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a M.F.A. in fiction writing from The Ohio State University.

Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston, MFA
Assistant Professor | Acting/Directing
Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston teaches voice, speech, movement, and acting at the School of Theatre and Dance at Texas Tech. She is a certified teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework®, an active member of Actors’ Equity (AEA), the Voice & Speech Trainers Association (VASTA), and the Pan-American Vocology Association (PAVA), and also contracts as a dialect coach in professional regional theatre. She continues to perform throughout the US and Europe and serves as a founding company member for Outpost Repertory Theatre, Lubbock’s first Equity Company. Additionally, Rachel freelances with private clients (corporate, non-profit, government) on dialect modification and presentation skills. Her ongoing research examines the intersection of performing arts methodologies with vulnerable populations (patient, veteran, female, lower socioeconomic status, etc.).
Sarah Johnson, PhD
Assistant Professor | Dramaturgy

Sarah Johnson, the Assistant Professor of Dramaturgy at Texas Tech University, holds a PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies from CU Boulder and an MFA in Dramaturgy from The University of Iowa. Her research focuses on intercultural theatre, new play development and dramaturgical methodologies. Her writing has been featured in Asian Theatre Journal and Theatre Topics. She was a casebook writer for Broadway’s Allegiance. In regional theatre, she has provided dramaturgical support for productions with Outpost Repertory Theatre, Portland Stage, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Athena Arts Project, Dirtyfish Theater and several playwriting clients.

Shawn Ketchum Johnson, MFA
Assistant Professor | Design/Technology

Shawn Ketchum Johnson is a theater maker focused on visuality, design, and generative processes. His expertise in site-specific and devised performance keep him linked to innovative socially-engaged ensembles throughout the country and the world. Recent scenic designs include the world premiere of Daisy at ACT (Gregory Award), Ghosts at ArtsWest (Gregory nominated), Bring Down The House and Richard III at Seattle Shakespeare, and Material Deviance In Contemporary American Culture at On The Boards. Recent other projects include the world premiere of Time To Tell, an original hybrid performance piece presented by ACT Theatre in Seattle, and The Riot Ballet, an interactive game/theater hybrid devised by a multinational collaborative team, with rolling premieres in Montreal and Seattle.

Casey Keenan Joiner, MM
Assistant Professor | Musical Theatre

Casey Keenan Joiner, a native of Dallas, serves as Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre. As a composer, Casey’s original work has recently been showcased in New York at Feinstein’s 54 Below, the Duplex, and the West End Lounge. She has attended Berklee College of Music, the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and the BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop. Her work in New York City earned the original cast of her musical, Glass, the title of Lincoln Center Artist of the Year in 2015. Casey is a current member of the National Opera Association, the National Association of the Teacher of Singing, and is currently serving as the MTI Vice Coordinator for KCACTF Region 6.
Jesse Jou, MFA  
**Assistant Professor | Acting/Directing**  
Jesse Jou is Assistant Professor of Directing at Texas Tech School of Theatre & Dance. Some of his projects include *Say You Heard My Echo* by Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai (HERE Arts Center); *The Betrothed* by Dipika Guha and *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* by Jennifer Haley (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater); *The Netflix Plays* (Ars Nova); and *Zen Ties* by Y York (The Rose Theatre, Omaha, NE). He has helped develop new work at PlayPenn; the Lark; the New York Fringe Festival; The Kitchen Theatre Co. (Ithaca, NY); and the Yale Cabaret. He is an alumnus of the Cherry Lane Mentor Project; the Drama League’s Directors Project; the Soho Rep Writer/Director Lab; and the Civilians R&D Group. MFA, Yale School of Drama.

Ronald Dean Nolen, MFA  
**Associate Professor | Head of Acting/Directing**  

Kyla Olson, MFA  
**Associate Professor of Practice | Dance**  
Kyla Olson is an Associate Professor of Practice in the School of Theatre and Dance at Texas Tech University. Since joining the faculty in 2008, she teaches levels of ballet and jazz, as well as Dance Production Activities I/II, Musical Stage Dance, and Dance in the Community. Olson serves as a choreographer for the school's annual musicals, and the University Dance Company. She is the faculty adviser for University Dance Company and Dancers with Soul. Kyla is a resident choreographer and director for Lubbock Moonlight Musicals. Professor Olson holds a BFA in Dance from West Texas A&M University, and an MFA in Dance from Sam Houston State University. She is also an ABT® Certified Teacher in Pre-Primary-Level 3 of the ABT® National Training Curriculum.
Mallory Prucha, MFA
Assistant Professor | Head of Design/Technology

Mallory Prucha is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local 829, IATSE. She received an MFA in Costume Design/Technology from the UNL Johnny Carson School of Theatre and Film, an M.A. in Theatre Arts and a B.A. in Studio Art from the University of NE-Omaha. She has worked for such companies as Oregon Cabaret Theatre, Utah Festival Opera, NE Shakespeare, NE Repertory Theatre, Black Hills Playhouse, and Southwest Shakespeare. As a freelance Fine Artist, she has illustrated 7 volumes of poetry for author Dr. Toni Poll-Sorensen and "A Primer in Theatre History" by Dr. Bill Grange. She specializes in coordinating moulage for large-scale first-response exercises and simulation and has completed her first level of training for Composite Drawing for Law Enforcement. Visit her website at www.malloryprucha.com.

Paul N. Reinsch, PhD
Associate Professor of Practice | Cinema

Paul N. Reinsch is Associate Professor of Practice – Cinema. Paul is a media historian whose work often addresses sound and argues for the intersection of history and theory in accounting for this neglected half of audio-visual media. He is the author of A Critical Bibliography of Shirley Jackson, an editor of Python beyond Python: Critical Engagement with Culture, and his work has appeared in From Media to Media Mogul: Critical Perspectives on Tyler Perry, and journals such Music and the Moving Image, Quarterly Review of Film and Video, Film International, Spectator, and Flow. Paul has a Ph.D. in Critical Studies from the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California.

Seth Warren-Crow, MFA
Associate Professor | Design/Technology

Seth Warren-Crow is a sound designer and composer for theatre, dance, performance art, and digital media. He received an MFA in Electronic Music and Recording Media from Mills College in California. He was the Musical Director for the Department of Dance at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee from 2009-2013. Some notable venues for both Seth’s sound design and composition for dance and his collaborative work with Heather Warren-crow as warren-crow+warren-crow include The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design & Space (Czech Republic), World Stage Design (Taiwan), The Porsgrunn International Theater Festival (Norway), Diapason gallery (NY), the Soundwalk Festival (CA), The Museum of Performance + Design (CA), La Mama Experimental Theatre Club (NY), The Harlem Stage eMoves Festival (NY), The Milwaukee Ballet (WI), and the Coco Dance Festival (Trinidad and Tobago).
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A few years ago, we were a Department of Theatre & Dance. Now we are a School. What does this mean?

We increased commitment to our students by significantly growing our emphasis on experiential education, so much so that we now bring in over 35 professional guests a year to educate our students. And, in turn, we send our students all over the world.

Through national and internationally-recognized programs such as WildWind, the Arts in Prague, the Marfa Intensive, and the Tennessee Williams Festival, and partnerships with schools in Hong Kong and Turkey, we further introduce our students to the professional world of theatre and dance.

Contributions to the Producers Circle are instrumental in helping us bring the world to West Texas, and introduce the world to the talent here in Lubbock.

Please think about contributing to our program.

Rest assured, your money will facilitate the next generation of artists through scholarships and innovative program-building, making TTU one of the best universities to promote excellence in the United States.
YES! I support the School of Theatre & Dance

☐ Angel $5000 +
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Undergraduate Advisor  Beth Scheckel
Production Manager  Joshua Whitt
Technical Director  Jared Roberts
Electrics & Sound Shop Manager  Darin Moody
Costume Shop Manager  Katherine Davis
Box Office Manager  Shawn Ward
Marketing Manager  Allison Roberts
Marketing Staff  Hayden Bearden, Jamison Driskill, Surasak Namwatsopon, Rachel Phillips, Calan Welder, Michael Yarick
Scene Shop Staff  Matthew Chilcoat, Caleb Ranger Lowery, Uvakeious Mcghee, Gabriel Mata, Hannah Machen, Mark Stargel
Props Staff  Julia Anderson, Meagan Pierce, Grace Wohlschlegel
Paint Staff  L'Hannah Pedigo
Lighting And Sound Shop Staff  Jonathan Lee, Carlos Medina Maldonado, Jesus Rodriguez Patlan, Christopher B Rogers
Costume Shop Staff  Alice Bryant, Elizabeth Campbell, Sarah Jackson, April Langehennig, Emilia Richardson, Yzael Vasquez
Poster Design  Michael Yarick
Program Design  Surasak Namwatsopon
Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

2020/2021 | THE PERSONAL & THE POLITICAL

20/20 Visions: The Violet Response Project
Directed by Hillary Boyd
8-11 October 2020
2020/2021 Season

The Blue Flower
by Bryce Reel
Directed by Josee Yu
22-25 October 2020
2020/2021 Season

An Enemy of the People
by Henrik Ibsen
A New Adaptation By Brad Birch
Directed by Bill Gelber
5-8 November 2020
2020/2021 Season

Fall Dance Festival
November 2020
2020/2021 Season

20/20 Visions:
The Violet Response Project
Directed by Hillary Boyd
20/20 VISIONS:
THE VIOLET RESPONSE PROJECT

Director
Hillary Boyd

Music Direction
Casey Keenan Joiner

Scene Design
Ian Olsen

Lighting Design
Christopher Rogers

Costume Design
Kelsey Blotter

Sound Design
Seth Warren-Crow
ENSEMBLE

Lauren Robinson
Luke Weber
Molly Glueck
Rebecca Taylor
Lillian Melcer
Carlos Medina Maldonado
Michael Yarick
Andrew Delagarza
Malāna Wilson
Keandra Hunt
Hagan Paulson
Abigail Boyce
Joseph (Tre) Babineaux
PRODUCTION TEAM

Dramaturg
Stage Manager
Assistant Director
Assistant Stage Manager
Assistant Lighting Designer
Assistant Costume Designer
Assistant Sound Designer
Audio-Visual Programmer
A1 Sound Mixer

Dorothy Chansky
Angela Aguilera
Joel Palma
Hannah Machen
Rafael Aviles
Sydney Bruce
Jonathan Lee
Darin Moody
Hayden Bearden
SHOW ORDER

Prologue/Opening
Written by Hillary Boyd
Performed by Ensemble

Song – Havin’ A Vision
Composed by Casey Keenan Joiner
Lyrics and Performances by Sean-Riley Cunningham, Michael Yarick, Malâna Wilson, Rebecca Taylor, Molly Glueck, Keandra Hunt, Lauren Robinson
Video by Hillary Boyd and Ian Olsen

BabiNews
Written by Joseph Babineaux
Performed by Joseph Babineaux

What You See, What We See, What to Do (Poem Trilogy)
Graphic Design and Written by Rebecca Taylor
Performed by Hagan Paulson, Abigail Boyce, and Rebecca Taylor

Far from Home
Written by Malâna Wilson
Performed by Malâna Wilson

Taco Tuesday
Written by Carlos Medina Maldonado, Andrew Delagarza, Michael Yarick
Performed by Carlos Medina Maldonado, Andrew Delagarza, Michael Yarick, Abigail Boyce, Luke Weber, Rebecca Taylor

Weber Weekends
Written by Luke Weber
Performed by Luke Weber

Pretty Privilege
Written by Lillian Melcer
Performed by Lillian Melcer
Song – Womyn
Composed and Video by Casey Keenan Joiner
Lyrics and Performances by Malāna Wilson, Rebecca Taylor, Molly Glueck, Keandra Hunt, Lauren Robinson, Lillian Melcer, Abigail Boyce

No Hats for the Homeless
Written by Michael Yarick
Performed by Michael Yarick and Joseph Babineaux

Black and White Protest
Written by Keandra Hunt and Lillian Melcer
Performed by Keandra Hunt, Lillian Melcer, and Ensemble

Song – Multitudes of Me
Composed by Casey Keenan Joiner
Lyrics by Sean-Riley Cunningham
Performed and Video by Carlos Medina Maldonado

My Cure
Written by Hagan Paulson
Performed by Hagan Paulson

Chapter
Written by Abigail Boyce
Performed by Abigail Boyce, Lauren Robinson, Molly Glueck, female ensemble

Song – A New Vision
Composed by Casey Keenan Joiner
Lyrics by Sean-Riley Cunningham, Michael Yarick, Malāna Wilson, Rebecca Taylor, Molly Glueck, Keandra Hunt, Lauren Robinson
Performed by Lauren Robinson and Luke Weber

Transition Interludes
Scenic Design: Ian Olsen
Sound Design: Seth Warren-Crow
Crew: Rebecca Taylor, Keandra Hunt, Abigail Boyce, Malana Wilson
The Blue Flower
by Bryce Real
Directed by Jesse Jou

22-25 October 2020
2020/2021 Season
THE PERSONAL AND THE POLITICAL

The J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
School of Theatre & Dance
presents

THE BLUE FLOWER
by Bryce Real

Director
Jesse Jou

Scene Design
Meagan Pierce

Costume Design
Emilia Richardson

Lighting Design
Tay Alfred

Sound Design
Hayden Bearden
CAST

Hackett
Evan Price

Magnilda/Lurlina
Kerstin Vaughn

Neugla/Mama
Gracie Wilson

Betrüger/Great Adder
Hunter Lovering

Ton/Berthold/Damkoch
Mitej Dongarkar

Kord/Agatha/Patrau/Ghoul
Miera Garcia

Weissalt/Totritter/Aufge/Marie’s Beast
Tony Morrell

Marie/Mady
Birdie Stabeno

Fass/Verachlig/Messenger/Hänger
Justin Krall

Betru/Zweif
Charles Kennedy
PRODUCTION TEAM

Dramaturg
Assistant Director/Dramaturg
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Props Master
Assistant Costume Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Co-Vocal Coaches

Vocal Captain
Fight Choreographer

Sarah Johnson
Colin Thomas
Tiffany Viesca
Corey Obregon
Grace Wohlschlegel
Beka Hall
Jacob Francisco
Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston
Leah Johnson
Kerstin Vaughn
Justin Krall
Early in our process, I asked the cast to define the word “fantastic” in their own words. Most definitions we came up with lived in one of two camps: a word describing something as excellent or a word describing something from human imagination, outside the realm of our real world. This play lives up to both those definitions. The world of *The Blue Flower* helps us escape from our own. Wolves who speak, witches, and ghostly kings inhabit the world of the play and magic functions as easily as gravity. In this tumultuous time, it can be tempting to run away into fantasy. However, Bryce Real has created a story in this fantastical world that resonates with our lived experiences. As our hero navigates his journey, questions about inequality, oppression, and toxic cultural values play out in real time.

As our season moved to virtual spaces in this time of pandemic, this play’s first production takes up an even more intense fractured reality: a play set in a fantastical world, performed on a virtual stage. The limitations caused by digital theatre are here accompanied by opportunity. Reality is questioned on multiple fronts. The digital, the real, and the magical confront one another and ask us to think critically about the story through both its content and mode of delivery. As actors perform what we are starting to call “Zoom magic,” using the limitations of the two dimensional screen to facilitate actions that defy the ordinary limitations of space and time, we wrestle with how this play both functions within our lived reality and outside of it. We experience the fantastical in new and bold ways.

Sarah Johnson | Dramaturg
THE PERSONAL AND THE POLITICAL
SEASON 2020-2021

5-8 November 2020
2020/2021 Season

An Enemy of the People

by Henrik Ibsen
A New Adaptation By Brad Birch
Directed by Bill Gelber

theatre.ttu.edu
AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE
by Henrik Ibsen
A New Adaptation by Brad Birch

Director
Bill Gelber

Scene Design/Prop Master
Grace Wohlschlegel

Costume Design
Elizabeth Campbell

Lighting Design
L’Hannah Pedigo

Sound Design
Rafael Aviles
CAST

Tom Stockmann
Steven Weatherbee

Kate Stockmann
Sarah Lehmann Jackson

Petra Stockmann
Elyse Dixon

Peter Stockmann
Caleb Ranger Lowery

Morten Kiil
Brad Frenette

Hovstad
Laureen Karichu

Aslaksen
Elliot Esquivel

Billing
Eric “Junior” Flores

^ indicates thesis role/design
PRODUCTION TEAM

Dramaturg
Bradley Hewlett

Stage Manager
Mariah Solis

Assistant Director
Sarah Lehmann Jackson

Assistant Stage Manager
Mackenzie Duke

Assistant Scene Designer
Jesus Rodriguez

Assistant Costume Designer
Chloe Scott

Assistant Lighting Designer
Ashleigh Breeding

Hair & Makeup
Katy Mitchell

As we sit, often uneasily, within the Information Age we are frequently challenged to form opinions on critical issues facing our family, community, state, nation, and world without being entirely certain that we have all of the facts. Often, we may be strained to explain what constitutes a fact or how to make sense of competing interpretations of seemingly jumbled webs of facts being stretched by the tension of competing moral claims.

Henrik Ibsen (1828-1906) wrote his version of An Enemy of the People in 1882 as he was facing negative public reactions to his discussion of the realities of sexually transmitted disease in his previous play Ghosts. Through the character of Dr. Tomas Stockman, Ibsen was able to show how those who champion facts can be left to stand alone when those facts conflict with the interests and motives of larger or more powerful groups. As further evidence of his understanding of the dramatic form, he was able to humanize such conflicts by locating them within the dynamics of an extended family.
In his new version of the play, Brad Birch has translated this core conflict into a modern context. A context in which the suppression of information is becoming less about direct force and intimidation and more about unseen manipulations and distortions. A context in which economic, social, and political motives are entangled in a web that moves at digital speed. A context in which the gag has been replaced by the RRRRRRRR.

Our production of An Enemy of the People does not claim to offer solutions to the problems that arise when the freedom of information is weighed against concerns of reliability and the consequences of control. However, we do hope to engage our audience in a decentralized conversation about these issues that have both immediate and far-reaching implications for our world. Without overly taxing our imaginations, we can suppose that at this very moment somewhere in the world someone is struggling for the right to speak the facts as they understand them while, at the very same time somewhere else, another person is reeling from the consequences of actions taken on the basis of distorted information. Where should the gates be placed? Who should be the gatekeepers? What rules should govern their operation? Why have gates at all? How do we RRRRRRRR?
November 2020
2020/2021 Season

Fall Dance Festival

theatre.ttu.edu
The J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
School of Theatre & Dance
presents

FALL DANCE FESTIVAL
2020

Choreographers
Kamrye Collins
Lindsey Couvillon
Jessica Garcia
Lupe Garcia
Alyssa Lebron
Lynsey Livingston
Yvonne Racz Key
Anna Rubio

Dramaturg
Sarah Johnson

Assistant Dramaturg
Mitej Dongarkar

Faculty Supervisors
Tanya Calamoneri
Shawn Ketchum Johnson
Kyla Olson
Guys and Dolls...almost
Choreographer: Yvonne Racz Key
Music: "Guys and Dolls," Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser
(music has been edited)
Performers: Abigail Boyce, Daniel Dipinto, Deborah de Farias, Sydney Dotson,
Emily Lowke, David Postlewate, Kietraille Sutton, Alexa Teleki, and
the cast of TTU's 2020 production of Guys and Dolls
Videographer/Video Editor: Gabriel Mata

DystopiaX
Choreographer: Lynsey Livingston
Music: "Spoken word" from TikTok; "This Is a Man's World"
by Dedrick Weathersby; "This Bitter Earth/On The Nature Of Daylight"
by Natalia Bonner, Louisa Fuller, Dinah Washington, Max Richter,
John Metcalfe, Philip Sheppard, Chris Worsey, Clyde Otis;
"Human" by Sevdaliza (music has been edited)
Performers: Emily Anderson, Lauren Bassett, Megan Cooley,
Cheyanne Ibarra, Samantha Mansel, Alexandria Pecina,
Taylor Renfroe, Avery Whaling
Costume Design: Mallory Prucha, assisted by Yzael Vazquez
Sound Design: Callie Watson
Videographer: Gabriel Mata
Video Editor: Lynsey Livingston

Desired Redemption
Choreographer: Jessica Garcia
Hillsong UNITED (music has been edited)
Performers: Hannah Baxter, Hannah Coburn, Jadyn Owens,
Lexi Rogers, Mia Thompson
Costume Design: Mallory Prucha, assisted by Yzael Vazquez
Sound Design: Rafael Aviles
Videographer/Video Editor: Gabriel Mata

Igniting The Pathway To Change
Choreographer: Kamrye Collins
Music: “A Change is Gonna Come” by Sam Cooke; “Don’t Worry About Me” by
Frances; “Change is Everything” by Son Lux (music has been edited)
Performers: Lauren Bassett, Wynter Brown, Alexa Garcia, Emma Hale,
Emily Lowke, Paris Padilla, Sydney Rood
Costume Design: Mallory Prucha, assisted by Yzael Vazquez
Sound Design: Callie Watson
Videographer/Video Editor: George Dockery
The Mind Dismantled
Choreographer: Lupe Garcia
Music: "Is There Anybody Out There?" by Pink Floyd (music has been edited)
Performers: Hallie Anderson, Hannah Baxter, Chelsea Chandler, Reagan Gill,
Emma Hale, Mia Thompson (understudy), Lauren Wheeler
Costume Design: Mallory Prucha, assisted by Yzael Vazquez
Lighting Design: Darin Moody
Sound Design: Callie Watson
Videographer/Video Editor: Sarah Brandon

CATHARSIS
Choreographer: Anna Rubio
Music: "I am" Jorja Smith covered by The Theorist, "Gucci Spring" by Jank,
"Get Free" by Mereba; "Ecdysis" by Flume (music has been edited)
Performers: Hallie Anderson, Hannah Baxter, Megan Cooley,
Emma Hale (understudy), Cheyanne Ibarra,
Sydney Rood, Molly White (understudy)
Costume Design: Mallory Prucha, assisted by Yzael Vazquez
Lighting Design: Darin Moody
Sound Design/Mix: Rafael Aviles
Videographer/Video Editors: Gabriel Mata

Good News
Choreographer: Alyssa Lebron
Music: "So Will I (100 billion X)" by Hillsong United
Performers: Emily Anderson, Hallie Anderson, Cody Blythe,
Emma Hale, Mackenzie Hammonds, Amanda May,
Reana Tibbs, Marcus Thomas, Rachel Winn
Costume Coordinator: Mallory Prucha, assisted by Yzael Vazquez
Videographer/Video Editor: Sarah Brandon

Without Your Embrace
Choreographer: Lindsey Couvillon
Music: "I Love You" by Riopy (music has been edited)
Performers: Rebecca Brug, Hannah Coburn, Deborah de Farias,
Abby Hardage, Shanna Hare, Sarah Minjarez,
Jadyn Owens, Mia Thompson, Mekenzie Thornton
Costume Design: Katherine Davis
Lighting Design: Darin Moody
Sound Design: Callie Watson
Videographer/Video Editor: Eli Jimenez
11-14 February 2021
2020/2021 Season

Sonnets for an Old Century
by José Rivera
Directed by April Langehennig

theatre.ttu.edu
Sonnets for an Old Century
by José Rivera

Director
April Langehennig

Choreographers
Mitej Dongarkar, Elliot Esquivel
Keandra Hunt, Paul Kortemeier
Briana Moody, Tanya Nguyen
Yvonne Racz Key, Savannah Rhodes
Kietraille Sutton

Choreography Mentor
Kyla Olson

Scene Design
L’Hannah Pedigo

Costume Design
Katie Davis

Lighting Design
Christopher Rogers

Sound Design
Jonathan Lee

SONNETS FOR AN OLD CENTURY is produced by special arrangement with Broadway Play Publishing Inc, NYC
www.broadwayplaypub.com
CAST

Robert Montano
Rick Coca | Mark Ferreira
Michi Barall | Vanessa Marquez (Dance)
Javi Mulero | Rene Rivera | John Ortiz (Dance)
Yusef Bulos
Doris Difarnecio | Vanessa Marquez
Wendy Johnson | Alene Johnson | Alene Johnson (Dance)
Svetlana Efremova
Carlo Alban | Carlo Alban (Dance)
John Ortiz
Kevin Jackson
Anne O’Sullivan (Dance)
Svetlana Efremova (Dance)
Kiersten Van Horne (Dance)
Maricela Ochoa (Dance)
Anna Ortiz | Maricela Ochoa
Felicity Jones | Antionette Abbamonte
Alene Dawson (Dance)
Camilia Sanes | Anne O’Sullivan
Kristine Nelsen
Dawn Lewis | Esther Scott | Karenjune Sanchez
Jessica Hecht | Kiersten Van Horne

Sean Riley Cunningham
Andrew DeLaGarza
Mitej Dongarkar
Elliot Esquivel
Brad Frenette
Krystyna Gray
Keandra Hunt
Leah Johnson
Paul Kortemeier
Caleb Ranger Lowery
Uvakeious McGhee
Briana Moody
Tanya Nguyen
Yvonne Racz Key
Savannah Rhodes
Marjorie Rodriguez
Samara Shavrick
Kietraille Sutton
Emily Swenskie
Emma Tedder
Kerstin Vaughn
Joryhebel Ginorio
PRODUCTION TEAM

Dramaturg
Kelsey Blotter

Stage Manager
Grace Wohlschlegel

Assistant Stage Manager
Colin Thomas

Lighting Design Consultant
Jesus Roderiguez

Vocal Coach | Dialects Design
Rebecca Taylor

Vocal Coach | Dialects Assistant
Morgan Mundheim

Assistant Scene Designer
Elizabeth Campbell

Assistant Costume Designer
Elizabeth Campbell

Assistant Sound Designer
Sydney Bruce

Visual Effects Designer | Editing Lead
Jonathan Lee

Visual Effects Contributor | Editing Lead
Michael Yarick
Award-winning playwright and screenwriter José Rivera, born in Puerto Rico in 1955, immigrated to New York at 5 years old and settled in Long Island. Growing up with the Bible as his only source of literature, Rivera was influenced by his family’s innate ability to tell captivating stories. As a child, he enjoyed TV shows like *The Twilight Zone* and *The Outer Limits*, but at the age of 12, a production of *Rumpelstiltskin* fostered his dream to be a playwright. Most noted for works such as *Marisol, References to Salvador Dalí Make Me Hot*, and *The Motorcycle Diaries*, Rivera is the first Puerto Rican screenwriter to be nominated for an Academy Award.

Originally published in 2000, *Sonnets for an Old Century* is an anthology of poetic monologues and sonnets delivered by characters of various ages, backgrounds, and life experiences. After 20 years, Rivera’s compilation of diverse human experiences still rings true. Each character in the play, based on a person Rivera knew in real life, is stuck in a vast, gray unknown place between life and death with one last chance to reflect on their lost life or offer one last bit of advice.
This production shares diverse and universal stories while simultaneously experimenting with how people perceive identity. Early in the rehearsal process, Mallory Prucha, a professional composite sketch artist, created renderings of the characters in the play based on perceived physical characteristics provided by the actors. To establish a dialogue about identity and cognitive bias based on visual representations of individuals, we ask you, the audience, to choose the sonnets you want to see based on the character sketches presented at specific intervals in the show.

We invite everyone to join in this conversation.
Blown Youth
by Dipika Guha
Directed by Leah Johnson
Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

25-28 February 2021
2020/2021 Season

theatre.ttu.edu
The J.T. & Margaret Talkington College of Visual & Performing Arts
School of Theatre & Dance
presents

Blown Youth
by Dipika Guha

Director
Leah Johnson

Scene Design
Matthew Chilcoat

Costume Design
Yzael Vazquez

Lighting Design
Taylor Alfred

Sound Design
Seth Warren-Crow

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

Celia
Laureen Karichu

Jo
Saharra Howard-Johnson

Anne
Hannah Turell

Ray
Alice Bryant

Audre
Alexa Teleki

Margaret
Savannah Rhodes

Shia
Katie Mayon

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## PRODUCTION TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dramaturg</td>
<td>Sarah Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Mariah Solis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>Carlos Medina Maldonado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Stage Manager</td>
<td>Lizzie Rokas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Coach</td>
<td>Caleb Ranger Lowery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Captain</td>
<td>Hannah Turell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocal Coach Assistant</td>
<td>Delaney O’Neal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Costume Designer</td>
<td>Beka Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scenic Charge Artist</td>
<td>L’Hannah Pedigo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special thanks to Warren-Crow family for voicing our offstage characters.

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Blown Youth Digital Talkback

Date/Time: March 6th, 2021 at 1 p.m. on Zoom

Please join us at the Blown Youth Digital Talkback for a conversation about the production. This talkback will feature the cast and creative team of TTU's production of Blown Youth along with playwright Dipika Guha. Moderated by dramaturg Dr. Sarah Johnson, this will be a chance to glimpse behind the scenes of the production and ask the playwright, director, designers, and cast questions about the play. More information and registration for this free, live, digital event can be found at:

https://www.depts.ttu.edu/theatreanddance/SoTD_News/season/2020-2021/blownyouth.php#
Dipika Guha was born in Calcutta and raised in India, Russia and the United Kingdom. She is the inaugural recipient of the Shakespeare’s Sister Playwriting Fellowship, a Hodder Fellow at the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton and a Venturous Fellow with the Lark Play Development Center. Her plays include YOGA PLAY (South Coast Repertory Theatre, SF Playhouse, Gateway Theatre), I ENTER the VALLEY (Theatreworks New Play Festival, Finalist for the Ruby Prize ’15); THE ART of GAMAN (Theatre 503 London, Berkeley Rep Ground Floor) and UNRELIABLE (Kansas City Rep). She is currently under commission from ACT and Z Space, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Barrington Stage, South Coast Rep and MTC/Sloan.

Dipika received her BA in English Literature from University College London, was a Frank Knox Fellow at Harvard University and received her MFA in Playwriting at the Yale School of Drama under Paula Vogel. She has taught playwriting at theaters and non-profits across the country, at Bryn Mawr and Fairfield Universities, the Co-op Performing Arts High School and Young Playwrights Inc and Fellowship Place, a non-profit supporting adults with mental illness.

She's worked as Visiting Artist at the Schell Center for International Human Rights at Yale Law School was a Resident Playwright at The Playwrights Foundation in San Francisco, is a Core Writer at the Playwrights Center in Minneapolis and a member of the Geffen Playwrights Group where she continues to develop work.

For television Dipika has written on shows in development at AMC including recently Rainy Day People for showrunners Chris Cantwell and Chris Rogers, Sneaky Pete for Amazon and is currently writing on Black Monday at Showtime.

Despite a long run in the United States she still drinks tea.