



THEATRE STUDIES NEW WORKS PROJECT

ILLINOIS THEATRE

Latrelle Bright, producer

Close, Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 7:30pm

A Dance in the Dark, Friday, February 17, 2023, at 7:30pm

Valiente, Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 7:30pm

Studio Theatre

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Theatre Studies New Works Project is sponsored
in part by the following generous donors:



SUSAN & MICHAEL HANEY

WELCOME

I'm delighted to welcome you to our Illinois Theatre 2022-23 production season. It has been a joy to watch our rehearsal rooms, stages, shops, and classrooms refill with the exciting energy and creative potential of new and returning students. Working together with faculty, staff, alumni, and guest artists, our students are helping to renew and reshape theatrical performances for our 21st-century audiences. Our season offers a range of rich storytelling styles, voices, and worlds that bring us together to illuminate the past, question our current paths, and imagine possible futures. Theatrical performance allows us to gather, join together in laughter and heartache, experience surprise and awe, and, hopefully, build stronger communities. Our season demonstrates our commitment to cultivating new voices for the

American stage through new work development as well as finding innovative approaches to drama that has endured many ages. As we continue to weather the surprises of this new decade, we can see how the performing arts around the globe have helped raise spirits, hold together struggling communities, reckon with fraught pasts, and provide hope and solace. Thank you for joining us. We're glad you are here and hope to see you again soon!

—Valleri Robinson
Associate Professor and Head, Theatre

PROGRAM

THEATRE STUDIES NEW WORKS PROJECT

ILLINOIS THEATRE

Latrelle Bright, producer

Thursday, February 16–Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 7:30pm

Studio Theatre

CLOSE

Thursday, February 16, 2023

An exploration of how we know others and are known in our cultural moment; devised by an ensemble, featuring both short scenes and variety acts.

CONTENT WARNING: Contains adult content; contains strong language

Playwright

Lucy Laplaca

Dramaturg

M. Landon

Director

Sophia Urban



More information about the project can be found on the dramaturgy team's web archives by following this QR code.

A DANCE IN THE DARK

Friday, February 17, 2023

An aging New York City ballerina who comes to a crossroad in her life just as a terrible secret threatens to unravel her career, relationships, and sense of self.

CONTENT WARNING: sexual assault, domestic abuse, pregnancy, alcohol abuse, marijuana use, slurs about women, vulgar language, female objectification, emotional abuse, discussions of violent erotica

Playwright

Gina Maggio

Dramaturg

M. Landon

Director

Julie Oelerich

VALIENTE

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Time: Not long from now and memories from not long ago.

Place: Valentina's home and school in Chicago, Illinois.

After losing a memento from her late mother, Valentina recalls a difficult time in her life where she struggled to find her purpose and embrace her Latinidad. Valentina delves into her memories and watches as her younger self, Val, struggles to cope with the looming threat of her imminent future and uses poetry as a means of escape from her own mind.

CONTENT WARNING: physical violence, discussion of suicide

Playwright

Melíza Guitierrez

Dramaturg

Anishi Patel

Director

Anne Kolaczowski-Magee

These productions will be presented with no intermission.

These productions contain adult content and are intended for mature audiences only.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Theatre Studies New Works Project is a space for stories students desire to tell and ideas they are curious about exploring. This biennial project nurtures the relationship between the playwright, the dramaturg and the director in shaping new stories.

This year we offer three different experiences for our students and our audiences.

First, an ensemble of students **devise** (create a new piece from scratch) together. On day one of rehearsal, there is a blank page. Actors, designers, and stage managers influence the direction of the piece as much as the playwright. Here, the focus is on the improvisation and the actors' characterizations with little emphasis on tech other than what is essential. The playfulness of the process of exploring, making, and editing together is at its core.

CLOSE is an exploration of how we know others and are known in our cultural moment; devised by an ensemble, featuring both short scenes and variety acts.

Next, we have a **traditional reading** of a new student written play. This experience offers the young playwright an opportunity to workshop the story. There are edits and rewrites and multiple versions of the script as they shape the piece with the dramaturg and the director. Here, the focus is on the text and structure, a step in readying the piece for full production.

A DANCE IN THE DARK is about an aging New York City ballerina who comes to a crossroad in her life just as a terrible secret threatens to unravel her career, relationships, and sense of self.

We round out this year's project with a **semi-staged, lightly designed** play that has already gone through several drafts and is itching for a robust rehearsal and design process. With few changes to the text, the focus shifts to "how" to tell the story. This piece offers a glimpse of what a full production could be.

VALIENTE – After losing a memento from her late mother, Valentina recalls a difficult time in her life where she struggled to find her purpose and embrace her Latinidad. Valentina delves into her memories and watches as her younger self, Val, struggles to cope with the looming threat of her imminent future and uses poetry as a means of escape from her own mind.

We are incredibly proud of the passion and effort the students have poured into this project. It is lovely to watch them take the reins and fly.

—Latrell Bright, producer

CLOSE

PLAYWRIGHT

Lucy Laplaca

DRAMATURG

M. Landon

DIRECTOR

Sophia Urban

LIGHTING COORDINATOR

Rolando Cisneros Jr.

SOUND DESIGNER

Jaritt Catellier

PROPERTIES MASTER

Kenneth Church

STAGE MANAGER

Grecia Bahena

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Azer Matten

SCENIC DESIGNER

Minghan Ma

ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER

Angelina Shidi

LIGHTING PROGRAMMER

Addie Hoegberg

CAST: CLOSE

Jimmy Cone
Patrick Jackson
Isabella Cooper
Vivien Cohen
Josie Zielke

A DANCE IN THE DARK

PLAYWRIGHT

Gina Maggio

DRAMATURG

M. Landon

DIRECTOR

Julie Oelerich

SCENIC DESIGNER

Angelina Shidi

LIGHTING COORDINATOR

Rolando Cisneros Jr.

SOUND DESIGNER

Jaritt Catellier

PROPERTIES MASTER

Kenneth Church

STAGE MANAGER

Grecia Bahena

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Azer Matten

CAST: *A DANCE IN THE DARK*

KATHERINE

Lauren Ashley Hayes

MARY

Destiny Jording

DIANE

Kostanza Stormont

AMBER/NURSE

Courtney Mazeika

DAVID

David Sommer

VALIENTE

PLAYWRIGHT

Meliza Guitierrez

DRAMATURG

Anishi Patel

DIRECTOR

Anne Kolaczkowski-Magee

SCENIC DESIGNER

Minghan Ma

LIGHTING COORDINATOR

Rolando Cisneros Jr.

SOUND DESIGNER

Jaritt Catellier

PROPERTIES MASTER

Kenneth Church

STAGE MANAGER

Grecia Bahena

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Azer Matten

FIGHT DIRECTOR

Shannon Brett Donovan

CAST: *VALIENTE*

VALENTINA/MAMA

Elizabeth Ruiz-Goranson

VAL

Cocoa Afonso

PIPER

Maddy Flagg

ROBIN

Tony Garcia

MR. STEWART

Kyglo Webb

DERICK

Paddy Berger

MAMA VOICEOVER

Laney Rodriguez

NARRATOR

Max Madelyn Childress

PROFILES

CLOSE



Vivien Cohen is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in acting. Her Illinois Theatre credits include: *The Revolutionists* (Marie), and *The 48: Group Therapy* (Manny). She has studied theatre and improv at Actors Training Center, Piven Theatre, and The Second City. She is also a member of the improv troupe Spicy Clamato on campus.



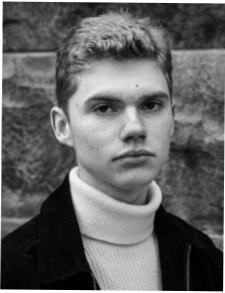
Jimmy Cone (he/him) is a sophomore in the BFA Acting Studio at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His previous credits with Illinois Theatre include *Urinetown* (UGC Exec, Boy Cop, Barrel Understudy) and *The 48* (Borachio, Everybody's Hero). His film credits include 2022's *Voices of Memory Project*, in collaboration with the University of Illinois Humanities Research Institute. When not performing on stage, Jimmy loves coaching the University of Illinois Hive Society Improv team, singing with the school of music, and immersing himself in the theatre. Jimmy would like to thank his wonderful family, friends, faculty, and the creative team for all of their love and support and is thrilled to share their work with you!



Isabella Cooper (she/her) is a junior pursuing a BFA in acting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Previous credits with Illinois Theatre include *The Heist: A Theatrical Escape Room* as Peyton. Most of her acting career has been film-based supporting roles, including feature film *Don't Let Me Stay*, directed by Aaron Thomas; short film *Ranger Hexx*, directed by Clinton Robison; web series *Writer's Block*, directed by Elazia Key; and a few others. Other on- and off-campus theatre credits include *Frank's Life* as Stace, *A Christmas Carol* as Belle, and *The Little Mermaid* as Andrina. Upon completion of the acting program, she hopes to continue her career in front of the camera.



Patrick Jackson (he/him) is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in acting at the University of Illinois. His Illinois Theatre credits include *The 48* (Jeremy), as well as *Urinetown* (Old Man Strong/Hot Blades Harry). Patrick can also be seen in the film *To Fall in Love and Break It Off* (Nick Wabash), as well as in the short film *Tint of Red* (Gordon), shown last year at the UIUC Film Festival. While not on stage, Jackson enjoys singing with the Varsity Men's Glee Club and making bagel sandwiches. Patrick would like to thank everyone he has worked with throughout this process, and he hopes you enjoy the show!



Josie Zielke is a sophomore acting major at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Previous credits with the University include *Urinetown* (Senator Fipp). They are also a published writer and play several instruments for their band, Angel Village.



Destiny Jording (Mary) is a senior at the University of Illinois. You may have seen her in the Armory production of *Stupid F*cking Bird* as Nina, Emma in *Curse of the Starving Class* from *Great Scenes from American Kitchen Sink Theatre*, and as Earth

Mother/Narrator in *A Darkling at Nightfall*. She has also performed in six other productions during her time at Illinois Central College including *Macbeth* as Witch Three, *Columbinus* as Perfect, and *The Revenants* as Karen. She is incredibly grateful to be part of this production and is excited for her future as an actress.

A DANCE IN THE DARK



Lauren Ashley Hayes (Katherine) is a current senior pursuing her BFA in acting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign after completing her associate's degree at Rock Valley College in Rockford, Illinois. Her previous Illinois Theatre credits include *The*

Revolutionists (Olympe de Gouges), *A Darkling at Nightfall* (Samanya Ashide), *Varslaren* (The Whistleblower, Gertie), *Origin Story* (Val), and *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realm* (Evil Tina). She was seen in the Armory Free Theatre's production of *Stupid F*cking Bird* (Emma Arkadina). Her previous Starlight Theatre show credits include *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder* (Lady Eugenia), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Potiphar's Wife), *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Tailor). Lauren is interested in pursuing acting opportunities in Chicago, Illinois in her near future. In the seemingly distant future, she wants to pursue her MFA in acting to later become a professor with the intention of sharing the gifts of self-love, discovery, the unknown, and healing through theatre.



Courtney Mazeika (Amber/Nurse) is currently a junior pursuing a BFA in acting at the University of Illinois. She performed in *Urinetown* (Soupy Sue), *The Heist* (Charlie), *Impulse 24/7* (Anja, Bobby), and *Julius Caesar* (Cassius) with Illinois Theatre. At her high school,

she performed in shows such as *Matilda* (Cook, Sergei), *Brave* (Witch, Lord Macintosh), *Comedy Sportz* (Captain), *Complete Works of William Shakespeare Abridged* (Romeo, Iago, Soldier, Macbeth, Soothsayer, Henry VIII, Hamlet), *Origins* (Zoey), *Almost Maine* (Gayle), and *Good Doctor* (Pochatkin, Woman), to name a few. When not performing on stage, Courtney enjoys working with her improv troupe (Odd Request) and sketch comedy troupe (Potted Meat) as vice president within the Champaign-Urbana community.



David Sommer (David) (he/him), is currently a junior pursuing a BFA in acting at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. On campus, he has worked with Illini Student Musicals, Armory Free Theater and the New Rebel Players in roles from *Little Women*

(Professor Bhaer), *Stupid F*cking Bird* (Doyle Trigorin), and *Jekyll and Hyde* (Dr. Jekyll). David is a proud graduate of Highland Park High School with credits from *Diary of Anne Frank* (Mr. Van Daan), and *Clue* (Colonel Mustard) and was a member of the Playback Theatre troupe at HPHS. When not acting on the stage, David spends his time reading, watching movies and taking care of himself and is so excited for the opportunity to collaborate with these amazing artists.



Konstanza Stormont (Diane) is a junior pursuing her BFA in acting as well as her pre-physical therapy requirements at the University of Illinois. Her past credits include Illinois Theatre's *The 48* (Sarah in *How to Be a Big T**ty Goth Girlfriend*) and *The*

Revolutionists (ensemble), and Inner Voices: Social Issues Theatre's *Fragmented: Voices from the Pandemic* (ensemble member). She also worked with Latrelle Bright and Champaign Urbana Theatre Company on a production of *The Tempest* (Ferdinand). She has also done past productions with Illinois student organizations, her favorite being *The Laramie Project* (Aaron/Leigh/Romaine/Zackie) with the Penny Dreadful Players. Konstanza is also a dancer and a part of Legend Dance Company at Illinois where she dances and

choreographs. This past summer she also spent her time in a work-study program at Visceral Dance Center in Chicago. She would like to thank her family for their support and artistic values.

VALIENTE



Elizabeth Ruiz-Goranson (Val/Mama) is currently a junior pursuing a BFA in acting and a minor in musical theatre at the University of Illinois. Her Illinois Theatre credits include *The 48* short scenes (Brittany), and *Varslaren* (understudy). Some of her

Armory Free Theatre credits include *The Moors* (Huldey) and *G Train* (Emilia). She has also been in *Little Women: The Musical* (Jo) for the Illini Student Musicals. On the side, she acts in short films directed by Ryan Leshock. *Bodies of Water* is her most recent short film which is free to watch on Youtube. Elizabeth is also in a band called The Meantime. She performs at different venues including the Illini Union. In her free time, she does some slam poetry at Caffe Paradiso.



Cocoa Afonso (Valentina) (they/any) is a sophomore currently pursuing a BFA in acting and a BS in psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. They were in *The Revolutionists* as a member of the Ensemble/Crew and understudy for

Charlotte Corday. Before that, they have performed locally at Uni High in such productions as *Crimes of The Heart* (Babe), *Noises Off* (Lloyd), and *Frogs* (Dionysus).



Maddy Flagg (Piper) is currently a senior BFA acting major at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. This is her second production with Illinois Theatre, the first being *Sweat* (Jessie). She is also working with the marketing office for

Undergraduate Admissions at the U of I as an actor and spokesperson on various videos featured on their website. Maddy graduated from Highland Park High School where her credits included *O Beautiful* (Linda), *Equus* (Nurse), *The Music Man* (Alma Hix), and more.



Tony Garcia (Robin) is an actor from Chicago Heights, Illinois. He is currently a junior pursuing his BFA in acting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Tony started college at the University of Illinois at Chicago until he transferred to his community college,

Prairie State College, where he played Edwin Greener and The Vagrant in *Miss Holmes*. After graduating with his associate's degree in liberal arts, he transferred to Illinois to perform in *Impulse 24/7*, *Final Rotations* as Oscar, *Native Gardens* as Ensemble, *Nightingale Won't Remember by Tomorrow* as Matthew, and a few films in Champaign-Urbana and Chicago. Apart from his acting and academics, Tony likes to work independently on his music and fitness.



Kyglo Webb (Mr. Stewart) was born in Auburn, California, but he spent most of his adult life in San Diego, which he considers his home. Kyglo is currently pursuing an MFA in acting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His most notable performances

were in *Outrageous Fortunes* with Glassdoor Theatre in San Diego and *Believe* with Grossmont College. Kyglo has performed in acting shorts within the San Diego State University's theatre program such as *It Had To Be You* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. His debut acting role was when he was cast in an independent web series called *Recruited*. During his last few semesters as an undergrad, he enjoyed being a student and a performer for the National Comedy Theatre in downtown San Diego.



Paddy Berger (Derick) is a sophomore at the University of Illinois studying acting and is very excited for you to see the following production! He has been in several Illinois productions including *Urinetown* (Tiny Tom) and *The 48* (Various Roles). When not on the

stage, he can be found frolicking and engaging in various clown-themed activities. He hopes you absolutely adore the show!



Madelyn/Max Childress (Narrator) (they/she/he) is a local artist who has been acting on stage and screen throughout Champaign-Urbana since 2012. They are pursuing an acting BFA at the University of Illinois after transferring from Parkland College with an

AA in theatre performance. Previous Illinois Theatre credits include Ensemble Crew in *The Revolutionists* and Mary 1/Karilagan in *The Neverland*. She also appeared in Parkland College Theatre's productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Peter Quince), *Between Two Friends* (B), and *Scheherazade* (Girl), as well as the Station Theatre's production of *I Hate Hamlet* (Deirdre McDavey).

Latreille Bright (Producer/Advisor) is a director, performer and arts advocate. Her interest in storytelling extends to social justice and the environment where she has trained with Alternate Roots and Sojourn Summer Institute, both focused on the devising techniques and ethics of creating work with and in communities and Double Edge Theatre focused on physical theatre practices and work creation. New works Latrelle has helped shepherd include: co-producer of *The Gun Play(s) Project* with Nicole Anderson-Cobb, PhD; *The Water Project*, devised with eight local community members and *Journey to Water*, connecting African Americans with regional water sources, a collaboration with Prairie Rivers Network through a Catalyst Initiative Grant from the Center for Performance and Civic Practice; and *Stories in the Water* exploring deeply rooted relationships black people have with our most precious resource, that premiered at Memphis Fringe. Recently she engaged in an interdisciplinary devised project about the quantum world with

physics professor Smitha Vishveshwara, *Quantum Voyages*, that premiered on campus, traveled to Boston for the American Physical Society Conference and a Zoom production (due to the pandemic) with students from the U of I and UC San Diego. She co-directed *This is the Ground* for Opera on Tap NYC with Jerre Dye at the Old Stone House in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Locally, she continues developing short theatre pieces about resistance through her grant-funded Arachne Project. She is a recipient of the Allerton Artist-in-Residence program (with Nicole Anderson-Cobb) and is working on a new piece; other recent and upcoming works include *The Joy of Regathering*, with Smitha Vishveshwara, Stephen Taylor (Music) and Jeff Moore (Beckman Institute) that premiered at Krannert last fall; and two new short pieces she is creating for Allerton and Meadowbrook Parks this spring. Latrelle received her MFA in directing from the University of Memphis, was a TCG Young Leader of Color and is an associate member of Stage Director's and Choreographers Society. She is grateful for her artistic life and attributes all of the above to the love and encouragement of family, friends and community.

Jaritt Catellier (Sound Designer) is a first-year graduate student from Joliet, Illinois, pursuing an MFA in sound design and technologies. He is a 2022 graduate from Illinois State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science with a focus in theatrical sound. Previously, he earned his Associate in Fine Arts at Joliet Junior College. His recent show credits include sound designer for *Bulrusher* (Illinois State's Westhoff Theatre), sound designer for *The Laramie Project* (Joliet Junior College), and the sound engineer for the 2022 Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

Grecia Bahena (Stage Manager) is currently a senior pursuing a BFA in stage management at the University of Illinois. Other credits at Krannert Center include *Origin Story* (Stage

Manager), *Great Scenes from American Kitchen Sink Theatre* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Titus Andronicus* (Production Assistant) with Illinois Theatre; *November Dance 2020* (Stage Manager), *Studiobalance 2020* (Assistant Stage Manager) with Dance at Illinois; *Lyric Under the Stars* (Assistant Stage Manager), and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Assistant Stage Manager) with Lyric Theatre @ Illinois. Grecia is also the production manager for WPGU 107.1 FM, Champaign's student-run alternative radio station.

Kenneth Church (Properties Master) is currently a first-year graduate student pursuing his MFA in props design and management at the University of Illinois. He has recently worked as a props artisan with the Utah Festival Opera and Musical Theatre (UFOMT) festival in Logan, Utah. While working at UFOMT he built props for *The Magic Flute* and was a puppeteer for the giant serpent as well. He worked backstage for UFOMT's production of *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Kenneth also worked as the props intern and stagehand for Meadowbrook Theater in Auburn Hills, Michigan. He had not worked in a theater since the coronavirus outbreak until his recent return this past summer. Kenneth spends time working on personal prop projects and 3D prints when able.

Meliza Guitierrez (Playwright, *Valiente*) (she/they) is an actor, playwright, and poet from Southern California. She received her BA in drama with Honors in acting from the University of California Irvine where she also served as Artistic Director for Brown Bag Theater Company and Schrodinger's Cast: 30 Plays in 60 Minutes. They've since showcased their original poetry with Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble as well as made their Los Angeles playwriting debut with Chicanas, Cholas, y Chisme's annual new play festival. Meliza is currently pursuing her MFA in acting at the University of Illinois

Urbana-Champaign. *Valiente* was first developed in 2020 with Brown Bag Theater Company and later workshopped with New York City's The Workshop Theater before enjoying a reading produced by Casa 0101 Theater in Los Angeles this past summer. Meliza is thrilled to be making their Midwest playwriting debut and to see *Valiente* brought to such vivid life with these amazing artists. IG: @melizakg website: melizagutierrez.com

Anne Kolaczowski-Magee (Director) is pursuing an MA in theatre studies at the University of Illinois. She was the assistant dramaturg for Illinois Theatre's production of *Varslaaren* and is the lead dramaturg for this season's production of *The Revolutionists*. She also served as the assistant director for *Bad F-ing Hamlet* at the Armory Free Theatre. Anne is a 35-year veteran of high school teaching and directing who is now relishing the comparatively easier life of a graduate student.

M. Landon (Dramaturg, *A Dance in the Dark, Close*): (they/he) is a new works dramaturg, fight choreographer, and video game historian. They are currently pursuing their PhD in theatre studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. A selected list of their dramaturgy includes *The Moors, Sweat, Fun Home, Hopefully: An Ethnodrama, Romeo & Juliet, Pride is Her Prejudice, No Exit, Sunday in the Park with George*, and Climate Change Theatre Action. They received an MA in theatre studies from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a BFA in theatre performance from Kean University. www.meghanlandon.com.

Minghan Ma (Scenic Designer) is currently a third-year graduate student pursuing an MFA in scenic design at the University of Illinois. Her credits include *Varslaaren* as paint charge (Illinois Theatre), *Queen C* and *Martyrdom* as assistant

scene designer (Trap Door Theatre), *Death Variations* as scenic designer and paint charge (Armory Free Theatre), and *A Little Night Music* as scenic designer (Lyric Theatre @ Illinois).

Gina Maggio (Playwright, *A Dance in the Dark*): (she/her/hers) is in a current senior in her final year of pursuing a BFA in theatre studies with concentrations in playwriting and directing. Illinois Theatre credits include directing in *The 48 (Group Therapy)* and as assistant to the director (*The Revolutionists*). Past plays performed by Illinois Theatre include the 10 minutes pieces *An Imperial Decision* (Sunday Shorts Festival) and *The Bus Stop* (Impulse). This past summer, she made her Station Theatre debut as Melody in *Bad Jews* by Joshua Harmon. In her free time, she enjoys competing in triathlons, reading, creative writing, drinking copious amounts of coffee, and hanging out with her grumpy basset hound, Benny.

Julie Oelerich (Director, *A Dance in the Dark*) is a sophomore pursuing a BFA in theatre studies, exploring playwriting and directing. Her first Illinois Theatre credit was as the playwright of “Ghosted” for *The 48*, fall 2021. Julie enjoys working as an Illinois Theatre SPOT coordinator, writing for *The Medium*, and serving as her sorority’s ritual chair. Thank you to all of her family and friends for their support. Hi mom!

Anishi Patel (Dramaturg, *Valiente*) is a junior pursuing degrees in theatre studies and psychology. She worked as assistant dramaturg on *Urinetown the Musical* and is currently working on SPOT with Booker T. Washington STEM Academy. In her spare time she enjoys reading and art.

Angelina Shidi (Scenic Designer) is currently a senior pursuing a BFA in scenic design at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her Illinois theater credits include *Native Gardens*,

The Royale (assistant scenic designer), and *A Little Night Music* (assistant paint charge). When not working on theater projects, Angelina enjoys spending time with her new puppy, cooking, and takes part in the art of cosmetology.

Nic Sole (Lighting Designer) is currently a second-year graduate student here at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is pursuing an MFA in lighting design and technology. He was the lighting designer for *Origin Story* at Illinois Theatre in the fall of 2021 and assistant lighting designer for Studiodance Spring 2022. He comes to us after having completed his BFA at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater, where he was lighting designer on *Antigone*, *The Addams Family*, *Resort 76*, and *Angel Street*.

Sophia Urban (Director, *Close*) is a junior pursuing a BFA in theatre studies with a concentration in directing. Previous credits include *Into the Woods* (Director), *Little Women* (Assistant Director) with Illini Student Musicals, and *The Moors* (Assistant Director) at the Armory Free Theatre. They would like to thank their family, friends, and peers for their constant support. Enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION STAFF

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Angela Harrington

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Azer Matten

SCENIC DESIGNER

Minghan Ma

LIGHTING COORDINATOR

Rolando Cisneros Jr.

HAIR AND MAKEUP COORDINATOR

Chantel Renee

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

Amanda E. Rokosz

Isabel Wang

SCENIC CHARGE

Will Sexton

HEAD ELECTRICIAN

Rolando Cisneros Jr.

LIGHT BOARD PROGRAMMER/OPERATOR

Addie Hoeberg

PROPERTIES MANAGER

Kenneth Church

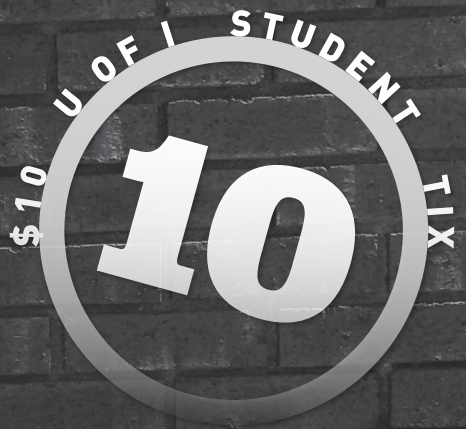
Land Acknowledgement

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution for the past 150 years. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as we move forward for the next 150 years.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



COME AS YOU ARE. LEAVE DIFFERENT.



U of I students, come on in. In whatever clothes, whatever state of mind, from whatever world of experience, you are welcome here. We don't have a dress code, we don't have an opinion code, and we want the Center to be your kind of place. Because of the vital support of Krannert Center donors and the Krannert Center U of I student fee, U of I students never pay more than \$10 for a ticket, and dozens of events each year are completely free.

Your presence helps to make Krannert Center a place like nowhere else—and what you can experience here makes your education like nobody else's. If you are inspired by what you find here, invite others to join you.

When you come to Krannert Center, we promise that you'll leave different: refreshed, reaffirmed, renewed!

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MAKING THEATRE MAKERS SINCE 1967

We are living through history. In the midst of it, Illinois Theatre continues to be a leader in producing art that helps us know ourselves and the world we live in. We are training students today to imagine the art of tomorrow. If you'd like to help, we welcome you as a Friend of Illinois Theatre. We'll use your financial contributions to support our students through scholarships, visiting artist residencies, new work development, and production. Help Illinois Theatre make theatre that matters today, tomorrow, and beyond.

*Contributions to Friends of Illinois Theatre can be made by visiting **theatre.illinois.edu/about/giving**, scanning the QR code, or by check payable to UIF/Friends of Illinois Theatre and sent to: University of Illinois Foundation, PO Box 3429, Champaign, IL 61826-3429.*



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We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

NECESSARIES

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location, which will be announced to you.

SIGHTS AND SOUNDS

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

LATE ARRIVALS

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

LOST ITEMS

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

TICKET RETURNS

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

SERVICES

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit, please email: Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

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