

3-2020

2020 Spring Senior Series

Messiah College

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

MESSIAH COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS



THE SPRING SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE

CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

MARCH 6 @ 8 P.M. | MARCH 7 @ 2 P.M.

AURORA SPECTRUM

CREATED & PERFORMED BY LEAH DEPRA & SARA PARRISH

ALL IN THE TIMING

WRITTEN BY DAVID IVES

DIRECTED BY AIDAN LEWIS

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER, CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

2019-2020 SEASON:
A Season of Reconciliation



DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

MESSIAH COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF
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PRESENTS

THE SPRING SENIOR SERIES

2019-2020 SEASON:
A Season of Reconciliation

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**Any photography, videotaping or audio recording
of these productions is strictly prohibited.**
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Mission Statement: As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

messiah.edu/departments/theatre

CONNECT WITH US!

If you liked what you saw tonight, please spread the word on social media!



MCTheatreandDance



@MCTheatreDept

AURORA SPECTRUM

Created & Performed by Leah DePra & Sara Parrish

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreographers.....Leah DePra, Sara Parrish
Costume Designer..... Annelise Wardwell
Lighting Designer.....Jordan Zercher
Stage Manager..... Elisabeth Boshka
Project Advisor..... Gregg Hurley
Technical Director..... Melissa J. Mendez
Production Manager..... Amber Leigh Patton
Assistant Production Manager.....Emily Falkenstein
Publicity Coordinator..... Ellen Diehl
Light Board Op.....Micah Hess
Sound Board Op.....Amanda Barnhill
House Manager.....AJ Marshall

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to the Messiah College Department of Theatre and Dance and Gregg Hurley for all the opportunities and guidance. Thank you to our fiancés, Garret and Charis, our families, and friends who have given us constant love and support.

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PERFORMANCE WILL CONTAIN
A STROBE LIGHT EFFECT.**
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A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

Aurora Spectrum not only depicts a journey, but has been a journey in itself. Coming into the project, both Sara and I had a similar theme of darkness to light but different visions of how to execute it. Through collaboration and compromise, we have discovered ways to bring each part of our visions together. It is exciting to bring our choreography, style, experiences and amazing friendship to this work. We know that as people, the different ways we experience darkness to light are unique. I hope that through the movement created the audience can relate to it and find new avenues of expression during this spectrum.

Leah DePra, Co-Creator

Aurora Spectrum loosely translates to sunrise, a transition from one extreme to the next. Leah and I created this show focusing on the transition from darkness to light. As we began working, we discovered that the show meant much more than its deemed meaning. It was also a reflection of our journey as friends and this new transition we face as we both prepare to graduate and get married. Despite the changes we have encountered in our lives, our freedom is through our movement. This constant creation of new ideas was the beginning of our friendship, and it only seems fitting to end this part of our journey together doing that same thing. I have learned much about who I am as an artist creating this project. I will never stop learning so and creating; this is not the end, only the beginning of a new chapter.

Sara Parrish, Co-Creator

PROGRAM

Darkness

The partial or total absence of light; wickedness or evil; distress or gloom; ignorance.

Music: *Black Blade* by Thomas Bergersen

Cast: Leah DePra, Kirsten Harte, James Lim, Rachel Switzer, Ryan Wong

Almost Darkness

Blinded by our own sight.

Music: *Moonlight Sonata* by Mariko Cello

Cast: James Lim, Sara Parrish, Emma Slocum

Introduction of Light

This is not the end of the book, only the beginning of a new chapter.

Music: *To Build A Home* by The Cinematic Orchestra, Patrick Watson

Cast: Leah DePra, Sara Parrish

Exploration of Darkness and Light

Sometimes there are blessings in disguise.

Music: *The Curse* by Agnes Obel

Cast: Kirsten Harte, Emma Slocum, Rachel Switzer

Expansion of Light

Find light and spread it to those around you.

Music: *Breath and Life* by Audiomachine

Cast: Hannah Barron, Leah DePra, Kirsten Harte, James Lim, Ryan Wong

Almost Light

To find you must search; To get there you must travel.

Music: *Moon Chasers* by Mark Ford

Cast: Hannah Barron, Sara Parrish, Emma Slocum, Rachel Switzer

Complete Light

Enjoy the light.

Music: *When Day Breaks* by Juan Pablo Torres, Latin Nights

Cast: Hannah Barron, Leah DePra, Kirsten Harte, James Lim, Sara Parrish, Emma Slocum, Rachel Switzer, Ryan Wong

CREATORS' BIOS

Leah DePra is a senior dance major with an exercise science minor. Her credits include various works created by Gregg Hurley, Danielle Guillermo, fellow student work, and works of her own. Other experiences within the department include being a Resident Assistant during the Summer Dance Intensives and being a part of the ensemble in the theatre productions of *The Boy Friend* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. She also gained experience in and exposure to different dance techniques while attending the University of Roehampton in London. There she also found an abundance of sources to draw inspiration from including museums, different sites from her travels, and the beautiful campus. Leah is thankful to her amazing support system who has encouraged her without ceasing throughout her entire college career.

Sara Parrish is a senior dance major with a business administration minor. Her credits include works from Gregg Hurley, Danielle Guillermo, Eileen Mitchell, fellow students, and her own. During her time at Messiah she has been the assistant choreographer for *The Boy Friend* and the choreographer for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Live in Color*. She also studied dance abroad at the University of Roehampton in London where she choreographed and performed some of her own and others' works. She would like to thank her parents for the sacrifices made to make her dreams come true; her grandparents for their continued giving of support; her family and friends for encouragement and abundance of support and love; and her fiance for his love, patience, and support.

ALL IN THE TIMING

Written by David Ives

Directed by Aidan Lewis

Presenting Three One-Act Plays

The Universal Language

The Philadelphia

Variations on the Death of Trotsky

ALL IN THE TIMING, SIX ONE-ACT PLAYS is presented by
special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE was first produced
by Primary Stages Company in New York City, in November 1993,
Casey Childs, Artistic Director.

THE PHILADELPHIA was first produced at the
1992 New Hope Performing Arts Festival, presented by
The New Hope Arts Commission, New Hope, Pennsylvania,
Robin Larsen, Executive Director.

VARIATIONS ON THE DEATH OF TROTSKY was first produced at the
Manhattan Punch Line Theatre in New York City, in January 1991,
Steve Kaplan, Artistic Director.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PERFORMANCE CONTAINS SOME MATURE
CONTENT (LANGUAGE, SEXUAL CONTENT) AND MAY NOT BE
SUITABLE FOR ALL AUDIENCES. VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.**

CAST

The Universal Language

Dawn Jordan Zercher
Don Dan Goonewardene

The Philadelphia

Al Evan Tinsman
Mark Dasyn Edwards
Waitress Jordan Zercher

Variations on the Death of Trotsky

Leon Trotsky Kaitlin Merlino
Mrs. Trotsky Elisaveta Alekumova
Ramon Mercader T.J. House

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Aidan Lewis
Costume Designer Annelise Wardwell
Lighting Designer Jordan Zercher
Hair & Makeup Designer Catelynne Cutting
Properties Master Hannah Beecher
Stage Manager Elisabeth Boshka
Project Advisor Daniel Inouye
Technical Director Melissa J. Mendez
Production Manager Amber Leigh Patton
Assistant Production Manager Emily Falkenstein
Publicity Coordinator Ellen Diehl
Light Board Op Micah Hess
Sound Board Op Amanda Barnhill
House Manager AJ Marshall

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks is due to so many people that if I were to add them all, this program would be a minimum of seventy pages. To simplify, my greatest gratitude goes to those who have stood by and continue to stand by me and my greatest dreams. To Brian and Ruth Ann Lewis, Catelynne Cutting, Stephanie Campbell, and all my professors at Messiah College, thank you for giving me a chance. I hope to exceed your wildest expectations.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

When selecting a play to direct, I read through countless one-act plays, debating what stories I wanted to put on stage. When I came across *All in the Timing*, I knew I had to do something from it. I had originally planned to only produce one of the plays from the set, but my mentors and advisors encouraged me to dream bigger, and so I added two more to the mix. All three of these plays fascinate me. Ives has given the director a fantastic series of comedies that allow for the implementation of a variety of directorial visions, offering a simple base of dialogue and story that the director can explode out from.

The Universal Language is a bear to work with. Almost entirely spoken in a made-up language, I played with several different options when trying to make this show understandable to an audience. While working with Dan and Jordan, we were able to create a show that uses nonverbal cues and subtext to display the dialogue's meaning. Keep an ear out for pop culture references, there's a lot of them!

The Philadelphia is, in my opinion, one of the most melodic plays I have ever read. The entire play reads like a sonata, beginning slow and languid, rising hurriedly, becoming absolutely manic, then slowing to a quiet finale. Try to hear the music of this play while watching it.

Finally, we have *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*, a play that expands off a major historic event of the early twentieth century, the assassination of Russian revolutionary, Leon Trotsky. Poking fun at the concepts of life, death, consciousness, and existence itself, this play is excessively comedic... until it's not.

Aidan Lewis, Director

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Aidan Lewis is a senior theatre major with emphases in directing, acting, and theatrical design. Originally a performance student, Aidan has been involved in theatre for over thirteen years with experience in performance, direction, stage management, and design. An avid linguist, tailor, adventurer, and coffee aficionado, Aidan seeks out the passions in his life with vigor and excitement. After graduation, he plans to become more involved in the central Pennsylvania theatre world, starting his journey as a theatre technician and costume worker. Aidan's hope is to professionally become a Christian theatre artist, bringing light to the hopeless and showing the love of God to those who need it. For The Kingdom!

W;T**POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER • OCTOBER 3 - 6**

Written by: Margaret Edson

Directed by: Ed Cohn

Margaret Edson's powerfully imagined Pulitzer Prize-winning play examines mortality while probing the vital importance of human relationships. When renowned English professor Vivian Bearing is diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer, she remains confident of her ability to stay in control of events—bringing to her illness the same intensely rational and painstakingly methodical approach that has guided her stellar academic career. But as her disease and its excruciatingly painful treatment inexorably progress, she begins to question the single-minded values and standards that have always directed her, finally coming to understand the aspects of life that make it truly worth living.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER**MILLER THEATER • NOVEMBER 14 - 17 & 22 - 24**

Written by: Oliver Goldsmith

Directed by: Elizabeth Angelozzi

Pranks and hijinks abound in this raucous 18th century comedy of big costumes, big hair, and even bigger laughs. Two well-bred young men arrive at the country estate of Mr. Hardcastle, intending to woo his daughter Kate and her cousin Constance; but when local mischief-maker Tony Lumpkin plays a practical joke on the city slickers, the Hardcastle household is launched into a dizzying, deliciously preposterous romp of mistaken identity.

BLUE CHRISTMAS**POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER • NOVEMBER 21**

Directed by: Gregg Hurley

Messiah College dance students take the time and space to acknowledge the seasons of sadness that we all encounter. Reflect with us through the medium of dance in order to find the comfort, hope, and joy of Christ's birth.

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of entertainment created and presented by department seniors.

GRACE POLLOCK DANCE STUDIO • DECEMBER 6 & 7**POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER • DECEMBER 13 & 14****ANNE OF GREEN GABLES****MILLER THEATER • FEBRUARY 6 - 9 & 14 - 16**

Anne of Green Gables follows the misadventures of a wildly independent orphan with fiery red hair and a temper to match. Cherished by generations, Lucy Maud Montgomery's timeless classic comes to life in this charming musical praised for capturing the essence of the literary work through its simplicity of language and beautiful orchestrations.

Based on the book by: L.M. Montgomery

Music by: Nancy Ford

Book & Lyrics by: Gretchen Cryer

Directed by: Ed Cohn

Music Direction by: Eric Dundore

Choreography by: Gregg Hurley

DARING TO MOVE: DANCE EXPLORATIONS OF UNCERTAINTY, RISK, AND EMOTIONAL EXPOSURE**2020 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT****POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER • FEBRUARY 21 & 22**

Directed by: Gregg Hurley

GiViM, the premier dance ensemble for Messiah's Department of Theatre and Dance, presents the choreographic works of Jen Connors, Valerie Henry, and Gregg Hurley. Please join us in our movement-based investigation of and response to the Humanities Symposium theme of vulnerability and security.

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of entertainment created and presented by department seniors.

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER • MARCH 6 - 8**AS IT IS IN HEAVEN****MILLER THEATER • APRIL 2 - 5 & 17 - 19**

Written by: Arlene Hutton

Directed by: Daniel Inouye

As it is in Heaven is set in a thriving religious Shaker village that is, well, shaken up after newcomer Fanny joins and some of its young female members begin to see visions and claim spiritual gifts. These so-called gifts cause the young girls who experience them to dance and twirl, see angels, shout out in praise, and fall into awed trances, completely upending and upsetting the community. The village must decide: is this a resurgence of the original Shaker celebration of the glory of God, or mere flights of fantasy manufactured by Fanny and the other girls?

CULMINATION '20: SPRING DANCE CONCERT**MILLER THEATER • MAY 1 & 2**

Directed by: Gregg Hurley

GiViM, the premier dance ensemble for Messiah College's Department of Theatre and Dance, presents an eclectic evening of dance featuring faculty and student work.