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Wait, She's Alive?! Playing Characters Based on Real, Living People

Courtney Jensen

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

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Wait, She's Alive?!
Playing Characters Based on Real, Living People

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts in Theatre

by

Courtney Gardner Jensen
Southern Utah University
Bachelor of Science in Theatre, 2003
Southern Utah University
Master of Education, 2006

May 2018
University of Arkansas

This thesis is approved for recommendation to the Graduate Council.

Steven Marzolf, M.F.A.
Thesis Director

Amy Herzberg, M.F.A.
Committee Member

Michael Landman, M.F.A.
Committee Member

Abstract

This thesis is for the performance of Sara Jane Moore in *Assassins* and for development, contributions, and performance of a new play written for our graduating class, *A Hamlet: West of Why*. This thesis also consists of my statement of artistry, documentation of artistic materials, and thesis related performance materials.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to:

My husband, Jerry for loving who I am and what I do.

My mother, Wendy who has seen every production I've been in.

My father, Chris for keeping me grounded but giving me wings to fly.

My family, for their love and support.

My church family, who help me keep an eternal perspective.

My friends, for their unconditional love.

My professors, for their faith in me, guidance, and support to be the best artist I can.

Last and not least, my grad mates, Chris, Cody, Grant, and Charlie. You'll forever be my

“Breakfast Club.” Glad I got stuck in “Detention” with you.

Dedication

To Jerry. You know what you did.

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I. Statement of Artistry

When I was very young, I used to make Oscar acceptance speeches in the mirror. I thought I would be famous. I've always wanted to be an actress. I understand now that acting isn't about being famous. And the idea of fame isn't what keeps me wanting to act.

The feeling that I get watching a live theatre performance can uplift me, educate me, or just plain help me escape a bad day. I love that when I am on the "other side" and I get to collaborate with a bunch of people who want to make amazing art, I can give that feeling back to others in the audience. I can help them think about issues, deepen their empathy, make them laugh; forget their troubles. Most importantly, the audience will *feel* something.

This is why I act. To share a beautiful human experience with an audience, to work with others on creating art, and sharing those gifts I have been given. And as a bonus, I get to say and sing things that I otherwise wouldn't be able to because I can't come up with the words on my own. Thank goodness for playwrights!

With playing Sara Jane Moore, I learned to really trust my instincts. That little bit of confidence has helped me to see myself as an artist. A collaborator. A storyteller. I can now approach a job knowing that I can bring things to the table that another actor may not, because they are not me. Also, I know now that when I am in a room with a director or producers I know that I am a colleague and not a blank body who is told what to say and how. With my final graduate performance in *A Hamlet: West of Why*, I was able to approach the process with this wonderful, confident, and creative mindset and I plan on continuing that approach.

To be honest, sometimes I still make acceptance speeches in the mirror.

II. Thesis Role Program and Photograph

MAINSTAGE SERIES

UNIVERSITY THEATRE

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
by Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett
Sept. 30 - Oct. 9, 2016

THE METAL CHILDREN
by Adam Rapp
Nov. 11-20, 2016

LYSISTRATA
by Aristophanes
Feb. 17-26, 2017

ASSASSINS
Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim
Book by: John Weidman
Apr. 14-23, 2017

SECOND STAGE SERIES

GLOBAL CAMPUS THEATRE

**ANGELS IN AMERICA
PART 1: MILLENIUM APPROACHES**
by Tony Kushner
Oct. 20-23, 2016

**ANGELS IN AMERICA
PART 2: PERESTROIKA**
by Tony Kushner
Mar. 9-12, 2017

UNIVERSITY THEATRE
in the Fine Arts Center

University of Arkansas
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

Assassins is based on an idea by Charles Gilbert Jr.

ASSASSINS

MUSIC & LYRICS:
Stephen Sondheim

BOOK:
John Weidman

APRIL 14-23, 2017

Playwright's Horizons, Inc. New York City
produced Assassins Off-broadway in 1990

TICKETS 479-575-4752
theatre.uark.edu

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS | William H. Rouse Caffery College of Arts & Sciences

CityScapes **DUKE** **NVA media**

Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 18 and 1.

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Thomas and Jill King, Joyce Stafford, Jacqueline Williams

Actors Jay Burke, Buddy and Susan Chadick,
David and Jane Gearhart, Jay and Aleza Greene,
Ralph and Gale Jensen, Michael and Eileen Lieber,
William and Sabra Martin, Barbara Shadden,
Martha Sutherland, William and Nancy Waite

Stage Managers David and Marsha Crittenden, Don Deweese,
David Gay and Gary Thornton,
Ben Hill, Charlotte Taylor and Timothy Hudson,
Greg and Hannah Lee, Brandt Leeds,
Harold and Karyl McAninch, Alex and Hana Mironoff,
Lucus and Janet Parsch, Don and Kathy Pederson,
Elizabeth Reha, Lloyd and Dorothy Seaton,
Nadine Purvis Schmidt, Jane Scroggs,
Clifton and Carolyn Smart, Brent Winborn

Stagehands Gwen Gertz and David Jolliffe,
Brandon Keener and Elizabeth Barnes Keener,
Barbara Moore

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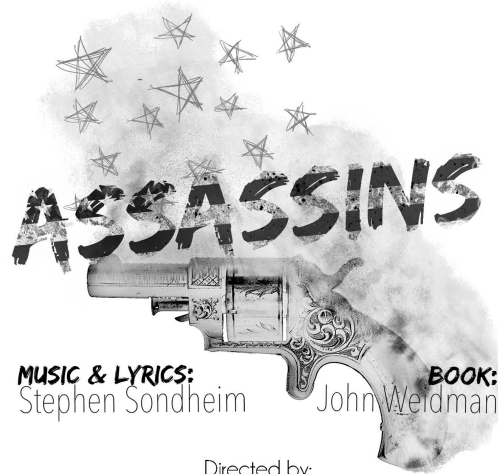
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* Donations to the Scholarship Program help us reward and support the education of exceptional theatre undergraduates here at the University of Arkansas.

All Patrons and Scholarship Donors receive recognition in our production programs, as well as invitations to special events throughout the year and our annual Season Preview Party in the spring. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. Please consider supporting the Department of Theatre. Email theatre@uark.edu or call (479) 575-6067 for details.

University of Arkansas
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
Proudly Presents



Directed by:
AMY HERZBERG

Musical Direction by
JASON BURROW

Scenic Design by
KIAH KAYSER

Lighting Design by
EMILY CLARKSON

Costume Design by
PATRICIA MARTIN

Sound Design by
TYLER MICHEEL



Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 17 and 2.

Dear Theatre Friends,

We would like to welcome you to the final production of our 2016-17 Mainstage Season with an outstanding production of the Tony Award winning musical, *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim. This will be the second time the Department of Theatre (then the Department of Drama) will present this musical. The first time the piece was presented was April of 2002. The timing of that production was unique as it was presented just over 6 months after the attacks on our country on September 11, 2001 making our production a patriotic response to the tragic events. Fast forward 15 years to 2017 with a country that is undeniably divided, this dark and thought provoking musical takes on an even greater meaning in the lives of both audience members and participants alike.

In 2015-16 we produced 8 shows with approximately 450 opportunities where students experienced substantial and meaningful collaborative relationships between peers, faculty, staff and guest artists. The University Theatre, Global Campus Theatre, and Studio 404 serve as our formal "laboratories" where this work takes place; however, our classrooms serve as the foundation for their training. We take great pride in our hands-on approach to teaching the art and craft of producing high quality theatre. The productions you see on our stages are the direct result of our dedicated faculty, staff, and support members, as well as our engaged and talented student body. Our students exhibited great success as actors, directors, playwrights, scenic artists, carpenters, and designers earning national recognition in directing, lighting design, set design, and acting. Additionally, many of our students spent this past summer working at summer stock theatres and regional theatres. We also saw a number of recent graduates pursue their dreams of a career in the theatre by moving to New York City, Los Angeles, and Chicago. So, keep an eye out for their successes – they are going to be abundant!

I want to close by thanking you all for your continued patronage of the Department of Theatre. We are grateful that you have chosen to be a part of our "family" by supporting the outstanding work of the students, faculty and staff. We believe that it is our obligation to challenge our audiences, students and faculty; to provoke; to inspire; and ultimately, to change. We hope that by participating in our productions – created by the next generation of world leaders in the arts and beyond – you are moved to engage in a dialogue about the world in which we live, and perhaps even more importantly, the world we will leave to those who come after us.

Once again, thank you for joining us, and enjoy *Assassins*.



Michael J. Riha
Chair of Theatre

OUR 2017-2018 SEASON SHOWS

Festival of New Works

Featuring new plays by Paul McInnis and Meghan McEnery

Join us for eight nights of exciting original works from the next generation of playwrights! This festival will include original one person shows, new plays from MFA playwrights Paul McInnis and Meghan McEnery. It will also feature Theatre for One, a mobile state-of-the-art performance space for one actor and one audience member conceived by Tony Award-winning scenic designer, Christine Jones. Admission to all festival events is included in both the Mainstage and All Stages season subscriptions.

April 20 - 29, 2018

SECOND STAGE SERIES

The Undergraduate Project

Back by popular demand, The Undergraduate Project is known for its packed houses and large student draw. Come see our highly talented undergraduate students in a production selected especially for them.

Previous titles include *Macbeth*, *The Bachelorette*, and *Lilies on the Land*.

Dates to be Announced

The Graduate Project

In the same vein as our Undergraduate Project, the Graduate Project is a show chosen specifically for our Masters of Fine Arts candidates. This production will showcase our talented MFA actors and designers.

Previous examples include *Down the Road*, *Love Letters*, and *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*.

Dates to be Announced

Visit theatre.uark.edu or call (479) 575-4752

Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 16 and 3.

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

MAINSTAGE SERIES

The Glass Menagerie

By Tennessee Williams

Our season opens with a powerful drama full of poetry and emotion from the author of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. *The Glass Menagerie* depicts a fragmenting family against the stark background of the Great Depression. Join us for this classic piece of American theatre from Tennessee Williams.

September 29 - October 8, 2017

Avenue Q

Music and Lyrics by Robert Lopez & Jeff Marx, Book by Jeff Whitty
Humans and puppets share the stage in this hilarious tale of young adults learning to live and love in New York City. This Tony Award-winning Broadway musical has often been compared to a grown-up version of Sesame Street, featuring plenty of adult humor and hit songs such as "Everyone's A Little Bit Racist" and "It Sucks To Be Me". Don't miss the first production of this gut-busting comedy to be done by a Northwest Arkansas theatre company!

November 10 - 19, 2017

Life is a Dream

By Pedro Calderon de la Barca

This Spanish masterpiece examines the eternal question of Fate vs Free Will. Two travelers in a mystical world discover a prince who has spent his life locked away alone due to a prophecy predicting he would destroy his father's kingdom. Together, the strangers grapple with family turmoil and their own destinies in this whimsical tale.

February 16 - 25, 2018

Season subscriptions are now on sale!

When Caesar had conquered the enemies of Rome and the power that was his menaced the liberties of the people, Brutus arose and slew him. The stroke of his dagger was guided by his love of Rome. I answer with Brutus: He who loves his country better than gold or life.
- John Wilkes Booth

The issue here is who fired that shot; the Deity or me? - Charles Guiteau

I killed the president because he was the enemy of the good people – the working people. I am not sorry for my crime. - Leon Czolgosz

Lousy capitalists! No picture! Capitalists! No one here to take my picture! Go ahead. Push the button! - Guiseppe Zangara

When people around you treat you like a child and pay no attention to the things you say, you have to do something. - Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme

I did not want to kill somebody, but there comes a point when the only way you can make a statement is to pick up a gun. - Sara Jane Moore

I think it all begins with the lack of respect. - Samuel Byck

There is no borderline between one's personal world and the world in general. - Lee Harvey Oswald

I died. You died. Everyone died. America died. - John Hinckley

We are sitting in the dark, still wondering how such a deed could have been done by a man in his sound and sober senses in fair and free America and appalled at the possibility of a sane man murdering an American president. - An observation made after the McKinley assassination in 1901

The most violent element in society is ignorance. - Emma Goldman



Special Thanks To...

STRUM'S INDOOR GUN RANGE
JOHN HOLLYFIELD AND STEVE ROGER'S GUN SAFETY COURSE
OFFICER MARK NICHOLS
ALEXANDER MARGULIS



Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 15 and 4.

Staff for the Production

Stage Manager.....	Joelle Gordon
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Maggie Harris, Nilufar Zaifi
Makeup Designer.....	Melissa Rooney
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Melissa Hall
Fight/Firearms Captain.....	Scott Russell
Dialect and Vocal Coach.....	Mavourneen Dwyer
Master Electrician.....	Catie Blencowe
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Eric Armstrong
Sound Engineer.....	Samantha Watson
Lighting Board Operator.....	Lauryn Waller
Charge Artist.....	Susan Crabtree
Properties Master.....	Autumn Percy
Projection Operator.....	Katie O'Rear
Microphone Technician.....	Ben Warfield
Wardrobe Crew Head.....	Madi Bell
Wardrobe Crew.....	Keghan Kavanaugh, Emmy Karschner, Hailey Scott, Landan Stocker
Hair/Makeup Crew.....	Liz Gonzalez, Reagan Russell
Follow Spot Operators.....	Chandler Birmingham, Kelsey Ryder Trey Smith, Jamie Spillers
First Hands.....	Bradley Sloan, Raleigh Anderson, Mason Bell, Lauren Gunn, Kayla White, Maddie Watkins, Sara Spillers, Erin Doshier, Jake Lewis, Hanna Kuhr, Ali Wright, Ryan Jayroe
Deck Crew.....	Kane Bailey, Jacinda Fletcher
Stitchers.....	Students of Production Practicum, Stage Technology I
Drapers.....	Samanthe Burrow, MJ Hall, Kelsey Looney, Melissa Rooney, Tanner McAlpin, Valerie Lane
Scenic/Lighting Staff.....	Eric Armstrong, Catie Blencowe, Emily Clarkson, Joseph Farley, Joelle Gordon, Missy Hartsfield, Taffy Kavanaugh, Kiah Kayser, Sogol Rashti, Sam Watson, Bre Wright
Carpenters/Electricians.....	Christina Aronowitz, Kane Bailey, Madi Bell, Mason Bell, Chandler Birmingham, Sierra Chavez, Anna Grace Estes, Jacinda Fletcher, Ryan Jayroe, Tyler Johnson, Jacob McFall, Gabby Montoya, Sam Murphy, Emi Ogden, Abraham Prince, Nancy Rosales, Kelsey Ryder, Alexa Smith, Tre Smith, Jamie Spillers, Lauryn Waller, Ben Warfield

About the Assassins cont..

Edwin Walker, an avowed anti-communist. In October, he began working at the Texas School Book Depository. On November 22, he assassinated President Kennedy. While being taken to county jail, on November 24, Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby.

Samuel Byck (1930-1974)

Attempted to assassinate President Richard Nixon; hijacked a commercial jetliner intending to crash dive into the White House. Baltimore-Washington International Airport, February 22, 1974.

Samuel Byck was divorced, had three children with whom he had little contact, and had few, if any friends. He was an unemployed tire salesman. Convinced that the American system was fundamentally corrupt, Byck donated much of the little money he had to organizations like the Black Liberation Army. During the Christmas holidays of 1974, Byck got a job playing Santa Claus. On Christmas Eve he picketed the White House wearing his Santa Claus suit. He concocted a plan, which he called "Pandora's Box", to assassinate President Richard Nixon by hijacking a commercial jetliner and crashing it into the White House. He attempted to implement the plan at Baltimore-Washington International Airport on February 22, 1974, making it onto a commercial plane and killing two people before he killed himself as police stormed the aircraft.

Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme (1948-)

Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as he left the Senator Hotel. Sacramento, California, September 5, 1975. Squeaky Fromme grew up in the middle-class suburbs of Los Angeles. She took ballet lessons and was a cheerleader in high school. In 1967 she met Charles Manson on a beach in Venice, California. She became one of his disciples and a member of the Manson Family, which committed the brutal Tate-LaBianca murders for which Manson was tried and imprisoned, though Fromme was not involved in that event. Fromme believed that Manson was the Messiah and that the world could be saved only if it heeded his teachings. She decided to commit a crime for which she would be arrested and put on trial; at the trial Manson would be called as a witness and would address the world. On September 5, 1975, she aimed a loaded gun at president Gerald Ford as he left the Senator Hotel in Sacramento. Manson was not allowed to testify at her trial. Fromme was sentenced to life in prison and, despite a brief escape in 1987 when she attempted to see Charles Manson, she was released in 2009.

Sara Jane Moore (1930-)

Attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford as he left the St. Francis Hotel. San Francisco, California, September 22, 1975.

Sara Jane Moore was born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia. She loved theatre and hoped to one day be an actress. She was married five times and had four children. Her fifth marriage, to a well-to-do physician, took her to San Francisco where she soon abandoned both the marriage and her accounting career and immersed herself in the counterculture lifestyle and revolutionary politics of the day. The FBI recruited her as an informant and she became a double agent, providing the FBI with information on her radical friends and her radical friends with information on the FBI. Eventually she confessed her duplicity and was banished from the movement forever. On September 22, 1975, in an attempt to reestablish her radical credentials, she attempted to assassinate President Gerald Ford. She was given a life sentence and was released from prison in 2007, after serving 32 years.

John Hinckley (1955-)

Attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan as he left the Washington Hilton. Washington, DC, March 30, 1981.

John Hinckley was the son of a successful oil company executive and self-styled "model homemaker". By contrast with his ambitious, hard-working father, Hinckley was from early childhood passive and withdrawn. He attended college at Texas Tech for seven years without graduating then returned home and lived in a spare bedroom in his parents' basement for as long as his father would permit it. Hinckley developed an obsessive infatuation with the movie actress, Jodie Foster. He saw her film, "Taxi Driver", fifteen times. When conventional attempts to meet Foster failed, he developed a plan which would make him impossible to ignore. He attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan on March 30, 1981. He fired six shots, hitting four people, including Reagan and Press Secretary James Brady. He was tried and found not guilty by reason of insanity. In September 2016, he was released from a mental hospital after more than 30 years.

Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 14 and 5.

About the Assassins

John Wilkes Booth (1838-1865)

Assassinated President Abraham Lincoln during a performance of "Our American Cousin" at Ford's Theatre. Washington, DC, April 14, 1865. Although his brother, Edwin, was the pre-eminent actor of his day, John Wilkes Booth was himself, in the words of one critic "a star of the first magnitude", especially in the South. When the Civil War broke out, he became a passionate supporter of the Confederate cause. As prospects for a Southern victory faded, Booth determined to plunge the Union Government into chaos by assassinating Lincoln, General Grant, Vice-President Johnson and Secretary of State Seward, all on the same night. His co-conspirators either failed or fled, and only Booth succeeded in killing his victim. Breaking his leg as he escaped, he was pursued by Union Troops until he was found in a barn in Virginia, where he was either killed or killed himself to avoid capture.

Charles Guiteau (1841-1882)

Assassinated President James Garfield in the waiting room of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Station, Washington, DC, July 2, 1881. Charles Guiteau pursued many different careers, from the law to evangelism, and failed at all of them. In 1880 he tried his hand at politics, composing a speech for the Republican Presidential candidate, James Garfield. Although in all likelihood Garfield never saw the speech, Guiteau believed that it was responsible for his election and asked Garfield to appoint him Ambassador to France. When the appointment was not forthcoming, he determined that Garfield should be "removed". Guiteau shot Garfield twice in the back. At his trial Guiteau pleaded insanity, danced, prayed, shouted out and scolded the jury. On the morning of his execution he composed a poem "I am Going to the Lordy" and pronounced, before reciting it on the gallows, "If set to music (these verses) may be rendered effective".

Leon Czolgosz (1873-1901)

Assassinated President William McKinley during a public reception at the Temple of Music Pavilion at the Pan-American Exposition, Buffalo, New York, September 6, 1901. Leon Czolgosz, the son of immigrants recently arrived from Poland, was put to work at the age of five. By the time he was twelve, he was a full-time laborer in a glass factory. In 1897 he quit his job and began attending political meetings and reading radical literature. On September 6, 1901, he assassinated President William McKinley. Czolgosz freely acknowledged his guilt and his trial lasted less than eight hours. When the calm and composed assassin was strapped into the electric chair, he turned to the witnesses and "in a clear and distinct voice" repeated the explanation he had given since his arrest. Czolgosz's act, the third presidential assassination, brought the wrath of public opinion upon anarchist groups and resulted in full-time Presidential protection from the Secret Service.

Giuseppe Zangara (1900-1933)

Attempted to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt as Roosevelt greeted well-wishers. Miami, Florida, February 15, 1933. Giuseppe Zangara was an immigrant, coming to the United States in 1923 from his native Calabria. He worked as a bricklayer, but eventually abandoned his employment because of burning pains in his stomach. These pains were the focal point of his life. He attributed them to his having been taken out of school and put to work at the age of six and blamed them on capitalism and its evil "bosses". "Since my stomach hurt I got even with capitalists by kill the President." On February 15, 1933, he attempted to assassinate the President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt as he spoke to a crowd of supporters. Too short to see over the crowd, he stood on a chair, which wobbled, causing him to miss Roosevelt, and instead kill Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago.

Lee Harvey Oswald (1939-1963)

Assassinated President John F. Kennedy from the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository, Dallas, Texas, November 22, 1963. Born in New Orleans, the youngest of three boys whose father died two months after his birth, he and his brothers were put into an orphanage until he was four and his mother remarried. Although bright he played truant from school and came to the attention of the authorities. He joined the Marines, but was soon in trouble and court-martialed. He "defected" to the Soviet Union where he was refused citizenship, grew disillusioned, and attempted suicide. Oswald met the 29 year-old Marina Prusakova and they married less than six weeks later. They moved to the United States in June of 1962. In April of 1963, Oswald tried to kill retired U.S. Major General

Cast

Proprietor	Jonathan Jarmon
Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald	Austin Lenaburg
Leon Czolgosz	Scott Russell
John Hinckley	Will Davis
Charles Guiteau	Justin Mackey
Giuseppe Zangara	Charlie Rodriguez
Samuel Byck	Chris Tennison
Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme	Ali Wright
Sara Jane Moore	Courtney Jensen
John Wilkes Booth	Chandler Reid Evans
Emma Goldman/ Ensemble	Maggie Harrington
Ensemble/Union Soldier	Jacob Gibson
Ensemble/Herold	Landon Stocker
Ensemble/Billy	Noah Chacon
Ensemble	Anna Grace Estes, Lauren Gunn, Emily Riggs

Orchestra

Keys 1/Conductor	Jason Burrow
Keys 2	Kristy Mezines
Reeds	Maigen Anderson, Joshua Bland Katie Heath, Maggie Matheny
Trumpet	Jade Carr, Nelson Rosa
French Horn	Cari Moll
Bass	McKay Clark
Guitar	Gustavo Samudio
Drums/Percussion	Chris Scherer

Assassins will be performed without an intermission.

Assassins is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

The video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited by law. As a courtesy to other patrons, PLEASE TURN OFF CELLPHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES during the performance.

Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 13 and 6.

Who's Who in the Production



Jason Burrow (Music Director) recently joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas as Assistant Professor of Musical Theatre. New York credits include *Amigo Duende* (R. Evolución Latina), *Cutting Edge Composers III* (NYMF), *Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge* (Gallery Players), and *Some Enchanted Evening* (St. Bart's Players). Regional credits include *Peter and the Starcatcher* (TheatreSquared and Arkansas Repertory Theatre), *Next To Normal*, and *Murder For Two* (TheatreSquared), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre). Jason served as an adjunct professor at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in the New Studio on Broadway and sang with the Broadway Inspirational Voices. With BIV, Jason sang in Mariah Carey's 2014 Christmas concerts and at the 68th Annual Tony Awards with Sting. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Arkansas and Master of Music degrees from Ohio University.

Noah Chacon (Ensemble/Billy) is from Fayetteville, AR. He is a freshman at Fayetteville High School. His previous credits include The Herald in *Cinderella* and Aladdin in *Aladdin* at Holt Middle School, Touchstone in *As You Like It*, Grave-digger in *Hamlet*, Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Tiny Tim in *A Christmas Carol* at TheatreSquared, Michael in *Elf Jr.*, Rooster in *Annie Jr.* and Michael in *Peter Pan* at Arts Live Theatre as well as Elmer Sweeney in *The Night of January 16th* and Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* at Fayetteville High School. His future plans include pursuing Theatre, Film, Architecture, Medical Sciences.



Emily Clarkson (Lighting Designer) was born in a small Michigan town some years ago. Should you ever care to know, she will point to it's location upon her palm-map; as well as the location of the city in which she received her Bachelor degree in Theatre Arts from Eastern Michigan University. Now in her third and final year in the MFA Program at the U of A, she'd like you to know that her theme for her graduate career has been, "And now for something completely different." This motto has been applied to all of her University designs including (among others) Katori Hall's *The Mountaintop*, and Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice*. If you listen closely, just before the show begins, you can probably hear her nervously tapping her foot and praying nothing goes wrong.

Will Davis (John Hinckley) is thrilled to share John Hinckley's story along side an amazing cast of actors. He is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and grew up in Little Rock, Arkansas. Now a sophomore theatre major, Will has been an avid student within the department and his previous credits include: *The Diary of Anne Frank* as Peter van Dann, *American Idiot* as Chase, *Lilies on the Land* as multiple roles, and a "Snow Sprite" for *Almost, Maine*. In addition, voice over work for the Theater Squared show, *All The Way*. Will would like to thank his family and friends for their support to his dream.



Anna Grace Estes (Ensemble) is from Little Rock, AR. Most of her training comes from the Arkansas Arts Center and from attending Arkansas Governor's School for Theatre. She has additional training from Little Rock Central High. Her previous credits include Elle in *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, Kitty in *The Drowsy Chaperone* and Bird Girl in *Seussical: The Musical* at Little Rock Central High School. The Clown in *Madeline and the Gypsies* at the Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre, Medea in *Medea* at Arkansas Governor's School. She hopes to attend Graduate School where she can further her training in theatre and the dramatic arts. She hopes to one day work professionally as an actor and/or as a high school level theatre teacher.

Chandler Reid Evans (John Wilkes Booth) is from Eureka Springs, AR. His previous credits include Johnny in *American Idiot* at the University of Arkansas. He is a junior Vocal Performance major with a minor in theatre. His future plans include pursuing a career in acting.



Staff for the Department of Theatre

Chair of Theatre	Michael J. Riha
Vice-Chair of Theatre.....	Patricia J. Martin
Theatre Office Manager	Barbara J. Springer
Production Manager.....	Joseph Millett
Technical Director	Weston Wilkerson
Scene Shop Manager	Matt Meers
Costume Shop Manager.....	Valerie Lane
Lighting and Sound Supervisor.....	Tyler Micheel
Properties and Paints Supervisor	Susan Crabtree
Poster Design.....	Emily Clarkson
Theatre Business Manager	Ashley Cohea
Ticket Office Manager	Paul McInnis
Publicity Manager	Ash Micheel
Theatre Faculty	Jason Burrow, Susan Crabtree, Mavourneen Dwyer, Kate Frank, Amy Herzberg, Morgan Hicks, Shawn Irish, Michael Landman, Valerie Lane, Gail Leftwich, Patricia J. Martin, Steven Marzolf, Jenny McKnight, Matthew Meers, Joseph Millett, Tyler Micheel, Michael J. Riha, Les Wade, Weston Wilkerson

Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 12 and 7.

Who's Who in the Production

Landan Stocker (Ensemble) is a Freshman Theatre Performance major at the University of Arkansas. Hailing from Billings Missouri, he has vast experience in school theatre and forensics. He would like to thank his family, friends, and past and present directors and educators for their overwhelming support as he pursues a career in theatre. This is his first main stage production.



Ali Wright (Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme) is a senior Theatre major from Mountainburg, Arkansas. Previous credits include Sorrel in *Hay Fever* and Ensemble in *The Cherry Orchard* at the University of Arkansas, and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Cordelia in *King Lear*, and Olivia in *Twelfth Night* with The Crude Mechanicals. Her future plans include pursuing a career in acting and working for a Shakespeare company.

Nilufar Zaifi (Assistant Stage Manager) is from right here in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Her previous credits include ASM for *American Idiot*, performance in *The Cherry Orchard* as Charlotta, *Doctor Faustus* as Mephistopheles, and *The Vagina Monologues* in the ensemble. In the future, she plans on attending Stella Adler's summer conservatory for acting then pursuing an MFA in acting.



Who's Who in the Production



Jacob Gibson (Ensemble) is a junior at the University of Arkansas. He is a transfer student from the University of Central Arkansas, majoring in Criminal Justice. His interest in theater soon sparked after coming to the University of Arkansas. In the past, he has acted through an organization called FineArts and in two University productions *Lilies on the Land* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*.



Joelle Gordon (Stage Manager) is a senior English/Creative Writing and Theatre major from Piggott, Arkansas. She has worked backstage on multiple shows before deciding to move into stage management. She was an assistant stage manager for *The Diary of Anne Frank*. This is her first show as a stage manager. After she graduates in the fall, she plans on pursuing a career in stage management.



Lauren Gunn (Ensemble) is from Bentonville, AR. She is a 2013 graduate of Bentonville High School. Her previous credits include Bianca in *The Taming of the Shrew* at The Classical Edge. She has also played Jackie in *Hay Fever*, Dani in *Kill/Shot* at the University of Arkansas as well as Katie Bell in *Talking Pictures*. She will be moving to NYC this May to pursue acting professionally. She plans to move back here one day to teach dramatic literature at Bentonville High School.



MJ Hall (Costume Designer) is from Detroit, MI. She has a BFA in Theatrical Design & Technology with a specialization in Costume Design. She is a second year MFA Candidate in Costume Design. Her previous credits include Costume designer for *The Metal Children* at the University of Arkansas, *Eurydice* at the University Theater, *Fences* at the Bonstelle Theater, *Birth and After Birth*, *Time Stands Still*, and *Broken Glass* at the Studio Theater, and *Rapture, Blister, Bum* with the Matrix Theater Company in Detroit, MI. Her plan after graduating with her degree is to teach at a college level.



Maggie Harrington (Emma Goldman) is from Ft. Worth, TX. She is a Senior drama major. Her previous credits include *Lysistrata* in *Lysistrata*, Kate in *Taming of the Shrew* at Classical Edge Theatre, Ida in *Little War* in Little Rock at Arkansas New Play Fest, Miss Tesman in *Hedda Gabler*, Celia in *Kill/Shot*, Myra in *Talking Pictures* at the University of Arkansas. She plans to eventually move to Chicago where she plans on taking comedy classes and pursuing acting.



Maggie Harris (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior theatre major from Fayetteville, Arkansas. Previous production credits include assistant stage manager on *American Idiot*, and stage manager of *The Metal Children*. Previous performance credits include ensemble in *Lysistrata* and Mrs. Frank in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. In light of her rapidly approaching graduation, she plans to have at least several existential crises and to continue working towards attending graduate school in fall of 2018.



Amy Herzberg (Director) is a Distinguished Professor and Head of Acting for the Theatre Department. She has extensive professional credits as an actor and director, including Alabama Shakespeare Festival, La Jolla Playhouse, Stages Rep, English Theatre Berlin, and San Diego Rep, where she was part of the resident acting company. Her training includes The Actors Center in New York, American Conservatory Theatre, and an MFA in Acting from California Institute of the Arts. Amy is co-founder and Associate Artistic Director of TheatreSquared, a national award-winning theatre in Northwest Arkansas. Honors include the Kennedy Center's National Acting Teacher Fellowship, Baum Faculty Teaching award, Governor's Arts Award, and the Fulbright College Master Teacher award. She serves as co-chair for the National Alliance of Acting Teachers. Amy is from Phoenix, Arizona. Future plans include happily working with the wonderful and talented students at the U of A and hanging out with her amazing husband and delightful dog. Amy also has two cats.



Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 11 and 8.

Who's Who in the Production

Johnathan Benjamin Jarmon (Proprietor) is from Oark, AR. He is in his final semester of the undergraduate program. His previous credits include Ensemble in Green Day's *American Idiot*, Simon Bliss in *Hay Fever* and originating the role of Jeff in *Poor Relations*. He plans to pursue work as an actor and continue to grow.



Courtney Jensen (Sara Jane Moore) is from Blackfoot, Idaho and a second year MFA Acting Candidate. She holds a B.S. in Theatre and an M.Ed from Southern Utah University. She has been acting professionally for several years in regional theatres such as the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Neil Simon Festival, and Tuacahn Center for the Arts. Most recently she was seen as Mrs. Van Daan in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Thea Elvsted in *Hedda Gabler* and Veronica in *God of Carnage* here at the U of A. In addition to her theatre credits, Courtney has worked on a number of independent films, local commercials, and a national web series. Currently, she is teaching a section of Acting One here at the U of A and performs with the improv troupe, Rodeo Book Club. After graduation, she plans to move to NYC with her husband to work in theatre and film.

Austin Lenaburg (Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald) is a Senior undergraduate theatre major. His previous credits at the University include Louis in *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches* and Tunny in *American Idiot*. He's also performed with The Crude Mechanicals Shakespeare troupe here in Fayetteville as Edmund in *King Lear*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Malcolm in *Macbeth*. He plans to move to New York to pursue a career in stage acting.



Kiah Kayser (Scenic Designer) is a third year MFA scenic design candidate who is from a small town in Minnesota... or as others like to call it, "south Canada." She was the scenic designer for Anne Frank at the University of Arkansas. Last summer she worked at Ohio Light Opera as a scenic design assistant and scenic artist. Her credits at University of Arkansas include *The Chairs*, and *Twelfth Night* along with co-projection designing *American Idiot*. Kiah got her BA from Iowa State University where some of her design credits include: *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Steady Rain*, and *God of Carnage*. After graduation she plans to become a professional scenic painter and designer.

Justin Mackey (Charles Guiteau) is from Applegate, MI. He has a Bachelor of Science in Theatre from Grand Valley State University. His previous credits include Otto Frank in *Diary of Anne Frank* at the University of Arkansas along with credits at Grand Valley including Father in *6 Characters in Search of an Author*, Gary in *Bethany*, Adam in *The Shape of Things*, Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*, and many more. Other companies that he's worked with include The University Wits, Alea lacta Est, Pigeon Creek Shakespeare, and The Barn Theatre. He would like to thank everyone who has helped him get to where he's at today. He loves you all!!!



Patricia Martin (Costume Designer) is a Professor, Vice Chair and Head of Design for the Department of Theatre at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. She has designed costumes for the Southern Theatre Festival, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, TheatreSquared, Idaho Repertory Theatre Idaho Theatre for Youth, the University of Idaho, and Tulsa University. She has also worked professionally in New York as a draper's assistant on a variety of Broadway productions and as a draper for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and the Utah Shakespearean Festival. She is a member of USA829, a recipient of three ACTF design awards and served as Costume Design and Technology Commissioner for USITT from 2002-2006.

Who's Who in the Production

Tyler Micheel (Sound Designer) is from Madison, SD. This is Tyler's first year at the University of Arkansas as the Lighting and Sound Supervisor. He recently graduated the University of South Dakota with his M.F.A. in Design Technology emphasizing in Lighting and Sound Design. His Bachelor's Degree is in Digital Arts and Design emphasizing in Audio Production from Dakota State University. While in graduate school, he designed for productions including *Seussical the Musical*, *Next to Normal*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *Pippin*. Professionally, he has designed for the Black Hills Playhouse with shows such as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Moonlight and Magnolias*, *Shrek the Musical*, *The Adams Family*, *Pageant*, *Nunsense*, and *She Loves Me*. Tyler has been recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for lighting designs for *A Servant of Two Masters*, and *Bus Stop*.



Charlie Rodriguez (Giuseppe Zangara) is from Carrollton, TX. He has a BA in Drama from Texas Women's University. He is a second year MFA grad student. His previous credits include Cousin Julio in *Motherf*cker with a Hat*, Professor Aman in *Water by the Spoonful*, Clov in *Endgame* and William in *Henry V*. He plans to move to Chicago and start his own company.

Melissa Rooney (Makeup Designer) is from Guy, Arkansas. She holds a B.A. in Theatre Arts from Hendrix College. She designed costumes for Hendrix College's production of *Time Stands Still*. She was also the assistant costume designer for *Angels in America Part One*.



Emily Riggs (Ensemble) is from St. Louis, Missouri. She is a Senior theatre major. Her university credits include Calonice in *Lysistrata*, Ros in *Kill/Shot*, Annie in *Lilies on the Land*, Eurydice in *Eurydice*. Her other credits include The Other Woman in *The River* with Ozark Black Box Theatre, Kiley in *Andromeda* with the Arkansas New Play Festival, and Petruccio in Classical Edge's *Taming of the Shrew*. She plans to pursue an acting career in Chicago.

Scott Russell (Leon Czolgosz) is a first year MFA student. A graduate of The Conservatory at Act One Studios - Chicago, previous work includes Otto Hurley in *Metal Children* (University of Arkansas), Children of a Lesser God (Footlik Theatre, Chicago), *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis PAC), *Passion* (Theatre on the Square, Indianapolis), *The Crucible* and *A Christmas Carol* (Indiana Repertory Theatre), *The Winter's Tale* and *Twelfth Night* (Heartland Actors' Repertory), *Unnecessary Farce* (Actors Theatre of Indiana), *Water By the Spoonful* and *Distracted* (Wisdom Tooth Theatre Project), and many more. Scott is also a fight choreographer and actor/combatant, and a member of the Society of American Fight Directors, Dueling Arts International, the Society of Australian Fight Directors, INC, Fight Directors Canada, the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat, and the Nordic Stage Fight Society. Scott would like to thank Amy and the cast for this opportunity, thank you, the audience, for coming out and supporting live theatre, and sends all of his love to his amazingly gifted and brilliant wife Jaddy and his beautiful, adventurous, inquisitive, and loving son Bastian.



Chris Tennison (Samuel Byck) is a 2nd year MFA Acting candidate. He hails from Houston, Texas, where he has been working in theatre and arts education for the last 21 years. His work has been seen in such theaters as The Ensemble Theatre, Main Street Theatre, Stages Theater, and The Alley Theatre. His previous credits at the University of Arkansas include Roy M. Cohn/ Prior II in *Angels in America: Part One* and *Part Two*, and Nasty Interesting Man/Lord of the Underworld in *Eurydice*.

Program for *Assassins*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 10 and 9.



Courtney Jensen as Sara Jane Moore (with Scott Russell, Chandler Reid Evans, and Justin Mackey) in the University of Arkansas Production of *Assassins*. April 2017. Photo Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.



Courtney Jensen as Sara Jane Moore (with the cast) in the University of Arkansas Production of *Assassins*. April 2017. Photo Courtesy of the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.

III. Thesis Performance Program and Photograph

**WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE
OUR 2018-2019 SEASON!**

CLYBOURNE PARK
by Bruce Norris

SHE KILLS MONSTERS
by Qui Nguyen

TOP GIRLS
by Carol Churchill

MACBETH
by William Shakespeare

TOPDOG/UNDERDOG
by Susan-Lori Parks

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC
Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Book by Hugh Wheeler

Season Subscriptions will be on sale April 20th!

ARKTYPE
Festival of New Works

April 20
THEATRE FOR ONE | 4:30 - 6:30 PM
WEST OF WHY | 7:00 PM
(I)SLAND (T)RAP | 9:30 PM

April 21
THEATRE FOR ONE | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
THEATRE FOR ONE | 4:30 - 6:30 PM
WEST OF WHY | 7:00 PM
LATIN X | 9:30 PM

April 22
THEATRE FOR ONE | 4:30 - 6:30 PM
WEST OF WHY | 7:00 PM

April 23
THEATRE FOR ONE | 2:30 - 6:30 PM
THE POODLE TRAINER | 7:00 PM
10 MINUTE PLAYS | 9:30 PM

April 27
THEATRE FOR ONE | 4:30 - 6:30 PM
RISE | 7:00 PM
10 MINUTE PLAYS | 9:30 PM

April 28
RISE | 2:00 PM
THEATRE FOR ONE | 4:30 - 6:30 PM
THE POODLE TRAINER | 7:00 PM
10 MINUTE PLAYS | 9:30 PM

April 29
THE POODLE TRAINER | 2:00 PM
THEATRE FOR ONE | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
RISE | 7:00 PM

Thank you for joining us at the newly renovated **UA Black Box Theatre**, where we are hosting exciting original works from the next generation of playwrights!

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

TICKETS: 479-575-4752 or theatre.uark.edu

CitiScapes MAGAZINE
KUAF
Democrat Gazette

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 18 and 1.

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Producers.....Andrew Gibbs and Mary Gibbs,
Jay Phillip Greene & Aleza Greene, Les Wade & Robin Roberts

Directors Timothy Hollis & Glenda Kay Clark Hollis

Actors JP & Aleza Green Trust,
John King & Sally Kelley King, Tom & Jill King, Brandt Leeds,
Bob & Melinda Nickle, Martha Sutherland, Joyce Stafford

Stage Managers Don Deweese,
Alex Lasareff-Mironoff & Hana Mironoff,
Vernon & Shirley Lott, David Malone & Deborah Thomas,
Luke & Janet Parsch, Don Pederson, Barbara Shadden,
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Stagehands..... Stephanie Faatz Murry David Gay & Gary Thornton,
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* Donations to the Patron Program help support productions and student work here at the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.

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Elliot James & Megan Mayo James	Debbie Tibey

* Donations to the Scholarship Program help us reward and support the education of exceptional theatre undergraduates here at the University of Arkansas.

All Patrons and Scholarship Donors receive recognition in our production programs, as well as invitations to special events throughout the year and our annual Season Preview Party in the spring. Contributions are 100% tax deductible. Please consider supporting the Department of Theatre. Email theatre@uark.edu or call (479) 575-6067 for details.

The ArkType Festival of New Works show details!

A HAMLET: WEST OF WHY

by John Walsh

A dark comedy set in the not-too-distant future, a group of young actors tour a 59-minute version of Hamlet across a dystopian American Southwest.

THE POODLE TRAINER

by Meghan McEnergy

Welcome to the circus - where the improbable meets the serendipitous and where two lost souls bond over their fascination with the poodle act.

RISE

by Paul McInnis

In the vein of Blaxploitation crime films of the seventies, the play journeys the life of Nefertiti Green and the collective community of St. Marie.

THEATRE FOR ONE

Conceived by Artistic Director Christine Jones, Theatre for One is a mobile state-of-the-art performance space for one actor and one audience member. Featuring eight new works by a mixture of University of Arkansas Creative Writing and Theatre faculty and acclaimed American playwrights, these 'micro-plays' will last 3 to 5 minutes each with multiple works showcased during each performance time.

LATINX THEATRE PROJECT

Incorporating rap, music, comedy, and drama, this exciting group of Northwest Arkansas theatre artists, now in their second season, reveals insights about what it means to be Latino in America today.

(I)SLAND T(RAP)

by Austin Dean Ashford

A one person Hip Hop Dramedy Mash up about Black Ulysses on an Odyssey of self discovery told through an interwoven narrative of music, poetry and animals.

TEN MINUTE PLAYS

Original short works written and performed by University of Arkansas undergraduate students.

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 17 and 2.

Dear Theatre Friends,

As we bring our 2017/18 season to a close we do so by welcoming you into our new "home." The ArkType Festival of New Works marks the culmination of an almost 4-year dream I had the first day I walked into this room (when it was an auditorium). That dream was then set in motion when I had a conversation with the Vice Provost for Distance Education, Donald P. Judges, back in October of 2016.

The building in which this new theatre is located, also happens to be the home of the University of Arkansas Distance Education team known as, Global Campus. The former auditorium (the room that is now this beautiful black box theatre) has been used as an acting classroom and occasional performance venue for the Department of Theatre since 2014. However, it was an antiquated and poorly equipped space that was underutilized due primarily to its configuration and lack of functional space. When I learned that a renovation was scheduled to begin on the 4th and 5th floors of this building during the Summer of 2017, I casually said, "Well Don, as long as you are renovating the 4th and 5th floor, we might as well see if we can renovate the auditorium and make it a state-of-the-art studio theatre." Not knowing what I was actually getting myself (and the entire Department of Theatre) into, his response was, "That's a great idea! If it is going to serve more students and patrons, let's talk to your Dean. But know this, we are going to have to move quickly!"

To make a long story short, here we are, only 18 months after the initial idea. The theater is equipped with a cutting edge digital sound and projection system, an LED, energy efficient lighting rig, and flexible seating that will allow us to reconfigure the room to accommodate multiple seating/performance arrangements. It will also be a huge asset as we work to become a nationally accredited theatre department. This state-of-the-art flexible black box will allow the students, faculty, staff and patrons an opportunity to participate in intimate, exciting, smaller scaled live theatre where the audience will be no further than twenty-two feet from the performers and as close as three feet!

This is also a very exciting time for the University of Arkansas' arts programs in general. With the recent 120-million-dollar gift to establish the Fulbright College School of Art, arts philanthropy is certainly at an all-time high. Not only will this provide the School of Art the resources to compete on a whole new level for top notch students, faculty and staff, it will also pay great dividends to all three of the arts programs within the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. Part of the gift has been dedicated to support a total restoration of the sixty-seven-year-old, Edward Durrell Stone Fine Arts Center – home to the University Theatre, the Stella Boyle Concert Hall, and the School of Art. In addition to modernizing all of the building's infrastructure, it will also address the concerns for additional space that is desperately needed for all three programs. Details are yet to be developed and there is a long way to go in securing the necessary funding, but we are all very optimistic that this is more than just a dream – it is a reality on the horizon.

Again, welcome to our new home and thank you for attending the ArkType Festival of New Works. We hope you enjoy the performance!



Michael Riha
Chair of Theatre

Staff for the Department of Theatre

Chair of Theatre.....	Michael J. Riha
Vice-Chair of Theatre.....	Patricia J. Martin
Theatre Office Manager	Barbara J. Springer
Production Manager.....	Joseph Millett
Technical Director	Weston Wilkerson
Scene Shop Manager.....	Matt Meers
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Lighting and Sound Supervisor.....	Tyler Micheel
Properties and Paints Supervisor	Susan Crabtree
Business Manager/Marketing Director	Ashley Cohea
Publicity Manager/Graphic Designer	Ash Micheel
Ticket Office Managers.....	Meghan McEnery, Paul McInnis
Front of House Managers.....	Jeremiah Albers, Cole Wimpee
Theatre Faculty.....	Jason Burrow, Susan Crabtree
	Mavourneen Dwyer, Kate Frank, Amy Herzberg,
	Morgan Hicks, Shawn D. Irish, Elizabeth Jilka,
	Michael Landman, Valerie Lane, Gail Leftwich,
	Patricia J. Martin, Steven Marzolf, Matt Meers,
	Tyler Micheel, Joseph Millett, Michael J. Riha,
	Les Wade, John Walch, Weston Wilkerson

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.
Pages 16 and 3.

Rise

PLAYWRIGHT NOTES

In the beginning, I wanted to pay homage to the Blaxploitation films of the seventies. As a child, I was in love with the images of Pam Grier as the title character in Foxy Brown. I carried this passion into adulthood which led me to become invested in the feminist classic, Coffy, which also stars Pam Grier. These films helped shape the character, Nefertiti Green. My love and admiration of Dorothy Dandridge takes form in the showgirl herself—Miss Soleil Dandridge. I fell in love with Dorothy Dandridge after watching her portrayal of Carmen in Carmen Jones. *RISE* is a love letter to my days as a young man at Jackson State University. At Jackson State University, I learned the importance of legacy and tradition. As a member of the prestigious “Sonic Boom of the South” Marching Band, I learned lessons of hard-work, dedication, and sacrifice. The Department of Speech and Theatre—mentors like Nadia Bodie-Smith and Yolanda Williams—built the foundation of my career as a playwright. Their kind words and undying support will never go unnoticed.

I am thankful for my mother, Mary Floyd. She has been my biggest support system throughout this entire process. She’s always instilled the importance of education into my life. When I lost sight of the end goal, I had her in my corner steering me back into gear. I would also like to thank my aunt, Cindy Hall, for allowing me to blunder through her Jacksonian yearbooks. Those books inspired me to choose Jackson State as my “Dear Old College Home”. This play is dedicated to all the Jacksonians—deceased and living. 1400 J.R. Lynch Street is more than an address. It’s a way of life that only a true Jacksonian will understand. It’s the place where the Prancing J-Settes started a trend, the place where Phillip Gibbs and James Green lives were laid down, and the place that brings us—Alumni—joy. I’m excited to share this story with an audience. Cole Wimpee, the director of *RISE*, has done a beautiful job with aiding the stage life of this story. I am thoroughly pleased with the progress of the play. Hope everyone enjoys the colorful and vibrant tale. Peace and Blessings to all.

Be Blessed,
Paul McInnis

10 Minute Plays

Waiting

Playwright..... Jenn Nesbitt
Director Nancy Rosales
Ezra..... Jacob McFall
Joy Jenee Childers
Philip..... AJ Hayes
Chloe Aubrey Pohlman

Scars

Playwright..... Sam Murphey
Director Raven Ray
Cameron Andrews AJ Hayes
Lucy Jones Bethany Kasper

A Thing That Wasn't There Before

Playwright..... Phillip Ruff
Director Autumn Pearcy
Man Jack Kenney
Woman Kelsey Ryder

Demonic Worship for Dummies

Playwright..... Emily Tomanio
Director Grant Hockenbrough
Sunny..... Samantha Schreyer
Lowell Thomas Rosenbrough
Trell..... Cali Clifton

The Question Game

Playwright..... Alicia Workman
Director Sara Spillars
Sophia..... Samantha Soard
Erin Heidi Kirk

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.
Pages 15 and 4.

Thank You



Special Thanks To...

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art,
Walton Art Center, Fulbright Development,
and Sisco Funeral Chapel, Inc.



The Poodle Trainer

Cast

WINKY Justin Mackey
the WOMAN Mischa Hutchings
the MAN Scott Russell

Production Team

Director Steven Marzolf
Playwright..... Meghan McEnery
Stage Manager Katherine O’Rear
Assistant Stage Manager Sierra Chavez
Costume Designer Melissa Rooney
Lighting Designer..... Eric Armstrong
Properties Master..... Susan Crabtree
Scenic Designer Brandon Roye
Sound Designer Austin Aschbrenner
Scenic/Projection Designer Brandon Roye
Fight Choreographer Scott Russell

Crew

Wardrobe Head Saman Ditha Soard
Wardrobe Crew Mary Larkin Furlow
Deck Crew..... Peter Kieklek
Deck Crew Seth Johnson
Hair/Makeup Jake Durkin
Light Board Op..... Annika Howard
Properties..... Autumn Percy

Setting:

Part One: The Beginning. 1995. Nebraska and then Minnesota.

Part Two: The Ending. 1999. Mexico.

Part Three: The Middle. 1996. Lebanon, Kansas.

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.
Pages 14 and 5.

A Hamlet: West of Why

About the Players

This play was written for the 2018 MFA acting class at the University of Arkansas: Charlie Rodriguez, Grant Hockenbrough, Courtney Jensen, Cody Shelton, and Chris Tennison.

While not a devised work, the play was developed with the actors contributing pieces of themselves, issues that were on their mind at the time, and random bits like lima beans. While everything here is fiction, their collective contributions are an essential part of the marinade that made the sauce of this play. My abundant thanks to them for contributing and engaging in this process.

* * *



The Merry Players play their parts outside Yuma, AZ

Theatre for One

Pine

Playwright.....Geffery Davis
Director Kholoud Sawaf
Actors Chris Tennison, Scott Russell

Lies

Playwright..... Padma Viswanathan
Director Kate Frank
Actors Courtney Jensen, Jenn Nesbitt

The Box

Playwright..... Emily Schwend
Director Jeremiah Albers
Actors NaTosha DeVon, Jenee Childers

Two Dollars

Playwright..... John Walch
Director Jeremiah Albers
Actors Cody Shelton, Trey Smith, Landan Stocker

You Love Dogs

Playwright..... Robert Ford
Director Cole Wimpee
Actors Grant Hockenbrough, Justin Mackey, Zach Currie

Otherlands

Playwright..... Les Wade
Director Kate Frank
Actors Mollie Armour, Emily Ogden

Dawn

Playwright..... Lisa D'Amour
Director Cole Wimpee
Actors Halley Mayo, Mischa Hutchings

Support is provided by the McIlroy Family Visiting Professorship in the Performing and Visual Arts.

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 13 and 6.

10 Minute Plays

Playwrights

Jack Barr, Mollie Bond, Sierra Chavez, Talyn Daniel, Caroline Dean, Maharshi Dubasi, Kristin Emanuel, Maggie Harris, Mary Grace Hathaway, Alex Larson, Sam Murphey, Jenn Nesbitt, Mari Onose, Phillip Ruff, Olivia Steele, Emily Tomanio, McClain Wood, Alicia Workman

Directors

Austin Ashford, NaTosha Barron, Madi Bell, Mason Bell, Sierra Chavez, Shana Gold, Savannah Haynes, Grant Hockenbrough, Kegan Kavanaugh, Pete Kieklak, Montana McCoy, Joe Millett, Autumn Percy, Rashel Quintanilla, Raven Ray, Nancy Rosales, Scott Russell, Trey Smith, Landan Stocker

Actors

Jenee Childers, Cali Clifton, Caroline Dean, Maharshi Dubasi, Ian Hampster, Chloe Haroldson, AJ Hayes, Hannah Hopson, Bethany Kasper, Jack Kenney, Heidi Kirk, Jake Lewis, Caleb Lorenzino, Jacob McFall, Emi Ogden, Aubrey Pohlman, Thomas Rosenbrough, Kelsey Ryder, Samantha Schreyer, Samantha Soard, Aaron Young

The Lock In

Playwright..... Talyn Daniel
 Director: Sierra Chavez
 Evelyn Kelsey Ryder
 Ben Jack Kenney

Paper Thin

Playwright..... Maggie Harris
 Director Montana McCoy
 Noah AJ Hayes
 Caleb..... Caroline Dean

A Bench of Thoughts

Playwright..... Sierra Chavez
 Director Rashel Quintanilla
 Grayson Aahron Young
 Grayson's Thoughts AJ Hayes
 Maci..... Chloe Haroldson
 Maci's Thoughts Samantha Soard

Rise

Cast

Nefertiti Green Raven Ray
 Soleil Dandridge William Trey Smith
 Angie Foster..... NaTosha Devon
 Santiago Pierre Justin Stewart
 King Jimmy Green Austin Ashford
 Lady Donna..... Chyna Mayer
 Jacob Madison..... Justin Mackey
 Shunna Taylor Hasberry
 The Leader..... Tristan Sutterfield
 The Follower Alex Larson

Production Team

Director Cole Wimpee
 Playwright..... Paul McInnis
 Dance/Fight Choreographer NaTosha DeVon
 Lighting Designer Catie Blencowe
 Sound Designer Austin Aschbrenner
 Scenic/Projection Designer Brandon Roye
 Costume/Make Up Designer Tanner McAlpin
 Properties Autumn Percy

Crew

Stage Manager Stephanie Collins
 Assistant Stage Manager Lauryn Waller
 Wardrobe Head..... Samantha Soard
 Wardrobe Crew Mary Larkin Furlow
 Deck Crew..... Peter Kieklek
 Deck Crew Seth Johnson
 Hair/Makeup Jake Durkin
 Light Board Op..... Annika Howard
 Properties Autumn Percy

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.
 Pages 12 and 7.

(I)sland T(rap)

(I)SLAND T(RAP): the epic remixology of the Odyssey

Cast

All roles including: Austin Dean Ashford,
Old Woman, Begwende, Gorilla, Calypso,
Theresa, Ruth, Sarah, Assata, Dad, Cyclops..... Austin Dean Ashford

Production Team

Director Cole Wimpee
Playwright..... Austin Ashford
Stage Manager, Sound Designer..... Katie O'Rear
Lighting Designer Eric Armstrong
Scenic Designer Kathleen Schmidt
Dramaturg, Faculty, and Playwright Advisor John Walch

Setting:

Place: The Dock of a Major American City/An Exotic Island of the Imagination

Time: Now

(I)SLAND T(RAP) will be performed without an intermission.

WARNING: Strobe Light, Intense Language, & Disturbing Imagery.

(I)SLAND T(RAP) is an original adaptation by Austin Dean Ashford and has received developmental presentations in tandem with the University of Arkansas Department of Theatre, TheatreSquared, and the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

This story is inspired by a variety of sources, chiefly The Odyssey by Homer, the art of Romaire Bearden and Aaron Douglas, the films of Walt Disney, the comparative mythology of Joseph Campbell, and the autobiographical experiences of Austin Dean Ashford.

LatinX Theatre Project

Presents

Scratch That - an original new play

Cast

Arionna..... Betty Brutus
Antonio/SpringDizzle..... Damian Dena
Bruno..... Martin Garay
Brendan..... Samuel Lopez
Sylvia Coco Vasquez
Julius..... Fernando Valdez
Nick..... Ever Villalobos
Lucy Audrey Romero
Isabelle Savannah Vaughan
Patricia..... Sativa Vela
Luis Alex Nilsson
Marisol Samm Canales

Production Team

Playwright, Sound Designer Ashley Edwards
Director Michael Landman
Production Manager, Lighting Designer Shannon Miller
Scenic & Properties Designer Ashleigh Burns
Stage Manager, Assistant Sound Designer Felicia Deatherage
Assistant Stage Manager Laiken Montgomery
Producer David Jolliffe
Associate Producer, Arts Center of the Ozarks Kathleen Trotter
Photographer, Web Designer Alicia Pitts
Social Media Manager Anna Vilner
Composer of Original Beats..... Joaquin Vela
Writing Mentor..... Vicente Yopez

Sponsored by the Walton Family Foundation, in partnership with the University of Arkansas Brown Chair for Literacy, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and Arts Center of the Ozarks

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre.
Pages 11 and 8.

Theatre for One

Theatre for One is a mobile state-of-the-art performance space for one actor and one audience member. Conceived by Artistic Director Christine Jones and designed by LOT-EK architects, Theatre for One commissions new work created specifically for this venue's one-to-one relationship. Embracing serendipity and spontaneity, Theatre for One is presented in public spaces in which audience members are invited to engage in an intimate theatrical exchange and enter the theatre space not knowing what to expect. Actor and audience member encounter each other as strangers in this suspended space and through the course of the performance allow the divisions and distinctions that separate us to dissolve.



CHRISTINE JONES (Artistic Director) is a Tony-award winning set designer and the Artistic Director of Theatre for One. SET DESIGN: *Broadway: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child Pts I & II*, *American Idiot* (Tony Award); *Hands on a Hardbody*; *On a Clear Day*; *Spring Awakening* (Tony Nomination); *The Green Bird* (Drama Desk Nomination); *Everyday Rapture*. *West End: Close to You*; *Bacharach Reimagined*; *Let the Right One In*. *Opera: Rigoletto* (MET). Other Selected Work: *The Book of Longing* (Lincoln Center Festival), *Burn This* (Signature Theatre) and *True Love*. 2015 OBIE for Sustained Excellence in Set Design.

A Hamlet: West of Why

Cast

Alain	Charlie Rodriguez
Clay	Grant Hockenbrough
Joyce	Courtney Jensen
Chase	Cody Shelton
Paul	Chris Tension

Digital Assistants

Rimshot/Troll/Other Voices	Mason Bell, Caroline Dean
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Production Team

Director	Shana Gold
Playwright	John Walch
Assistant Director	Jeremiah Albers
Fight Choreography	Charlie Rodriguez
Set Designer	Brandon Roye
Lighting Designer	Kathleen Schmidt
Costume Designer	Kelsey Looney
Sound Designer	Austin Aschbrenner
Scenic/Projection Designer	Brandon Roye

Crew

Stage Manager	Samuel Murphey
Assistant Stage Manager	Caroline Dean
Wardrobe Crew Head	Adam Rutiaga
Wardrobe Crew	Haley Goodebiddle
Deck Crew	Samantha Schreyer
Light Board Op	Annika Howard
Properties	Autumn Percy

Setting:

Place: The open road—America.

Time: A few years from now, toward the tail-end of a tour.

Program for *A Hamlet: West of Why*, courtesy of University of Arkansas Department of Theatre. Pages 10 and 9.

Appendix A: Website Link

<https://www.courtneygjensen.com>

Appendix B: Headshot



Photo courtesy of J'adore Photography.

Appendix C: Resume

COURTNEY JENSEN

AEA Eligible

Actors Casting Agency
479.236.6849
actorscastingagency@gmail.com

Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Blue
Height: 5'6"
Voice: Soprano (C3-C6) Belt (F5)

FILM

ARE THERE ANY KINGS?	Lead	Independent	Breedland Bryant
THE BENEVOLENT STALKER	Lead	School of Art Institute Chicago	Ella Zhu
THE BET	Lead	RubberSquare	Michael Dunn
LEVELS OF LOVE	Supporting	SaddleUp Productions	Ty Gregson
#NEWS (Web Series)	Recurring	Balloon Pictures	David Schoner
PARKER'S ANCHOR	Featured	Purpose Pictures	Marc Hampson
YOUR LOCAL NEWS	Featured	Arkansas Films	Josh Irwin

TELEVISION

TRUE DETECTIVE	Featured (Wilma)	HBO	Jeremy Saulnier
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THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: ON THE AIR	Carrollette/Emily	Utah Shakespeare Festival	Brad Carroll
*LEND ME A TENOR: THE MUSICAL	Anna/Ensemble	Utah Shakespeare Festival	Brad Carroll
PEG O'MY HEART	Peg u/s	Utah Shakespeare Festival	Jim O'Connor
FUN HOME	Alison/Helen u/s	TheatreSquared	Amy Herzberg
PETER AND THE STARCATCHER	Molly/Peter u/s	TheatreSquared	Mark Shanahan
ONCE UPON A MATTRESS	Winnifred	Empress Theatre	Shawn Maxfield
GUYS AND DOLLS	Adelaide	Empress Theatre	Shawn Maxfield
HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS...	Rosemary	Centerpoint Legacy Theatre	Maurie Tarbox
PLAZA SUITE	Karen/Norma	Neil Simon Festival	Bradford Garrison
THE ODD COUPLE (FEMALE VERSION)	Renee	Neil Simon Festival	Richard Bugg
SOUTH PACIFIC	Nurse/Ensemble	Tuacahn Center for the Arts	Tim Threlfall
MY BIG FAT UTAH WEDDING	Marmalade	Desert Star Playhouse	Scott Holman
THE BI-POLAR EXPRESS	Elphaba	Desert Star Playhouse	Mary Williams
ALASKA CABIN NITE	Amber/RJ	Alaska Cabin Nite Theater	Todd Norris
A HAMLET: WEST OF WHY	Joyce	University of Arkansas	Shana Gold
ASSASSINS	Sarah Jane Moore	University of Arkansas	Amy Herzberg
DIARY OF ANNE FRANK	Mrs. Van Daan	University of Arkansas	Kate Frank
HEDDA GABLER	Thea Elvsted	University of Arkansas	Cole Wimpee
GOD OF CARNAGE	Veronica	University of Arkansas	Jeremiah Albers

*Staged Reading

COMMERICALS

Available for viewing at www.CourtneyGJensen.com

TRAINING

MFA Acting - University of Arkansas, 2018
BS Theatre: Acting/Directing – Southern Utah University
Acting: Amy Herzberg-(Meisner), Michael Landman-(Viewpoints), Steven Marzolf, Jason Burrow-(Musical Theatre)
Voice/Dialects: Mavourneen Dwyer
On Camera: The Actor's Workshop with Michael Flynn - SLC, UT
Shakespeare Fellowship: Rebecca Guy, Ralph Zito-Shakespeare Directing Workshop at The Juilliard School

SPECIAL SKILLS

Dialects: RP, Std. American, Irish, Scottish, French, var. Southern (excellent ear, quick learner)
Instruments: Piano (Advanced), Flute & Piccolo (Advanced), Renaissance Woodwinds (Advanced)
Dance: Jazz (10 years), Ballet (6 years), Tap (1 year), Musical Theatre, Folk, learns quickly
Improv: Long & Short form comedy
Other: Teaching Artist, Music Direction, Valid Passport, Drives Manual & Automatic, Puppetry, ABO Certified Optician

Appendix D: Proof of Permissions



J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Theatre

To: Graduate School and International Studies, University of Arkansas
From: Ashley Cohea, Business Manager for Department of Theatre
Date: April 14, 2018
Re: Use of Department of Theatre production programs, photos, and publicity materials in thesis publications

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If there are any questions on this matter, or any dispute over whether production material is being used in an inappropriate manner, please contact the Department of Theatre Business Manager, listed below.

Ashley Cohea
228 Fine Arts Center
University of Arkansas
(479) 575-6067
acohea@uark.edu


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