

Macalester Theater and Dance Department

SPRING 2021 PERFORMANCES

APRIL 28 - MAY 2 AT SHAW FIELD



MACALESTER COLLEGE | THEATER AND DANCE DEPARTMENT

INSIDE OUT

SPRING 2021 DANCE CONCERT



Photo by Christopher Duggan

TOUCHING QUEERNESS:



PERFORMING UTOPIA IN A PUBLIC BATHROOM

Adar Kamholtz-Roberts

Como la Tierra



I'm Going to Go Back There Someday



Written and Directed by
Asher de Forest

I read somewhere that 2020 was the longest decade ever.

A little over a year ago, the onset of the pandemic turned the world upside down. We battled against exhaustion to keep up with our responsibilities and to hold our communities amidst great uncertainty, fear, and deafening isolation. We mourned the loss of the promise of spring, the yearly time to celebrate rebirth. Instead, there were many departures without goodbyes, and some of our department colleagues lost family and friends to the virus.

We are less than a month away from the anniversary of Mr. George Floyd's murder. Nine minutes and twenty-nine seconds demanded that we face this nation's racist and violent history. In flames, the Twin Cities took center stage.

On January 6, an unimaginably grotesque spectacle: the insurrection of the Capitol displayed democracy under threat.

Though COVID19, racism, and white supremacy are not in the past, we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. It is true that the tunnel is long, but there is light.

In a leap of faith, the Theater and Dance Department decided to hold outdoor performances. We knew that at any moment the project could collapse: COVID19 numbers could have risen or we could have fallen ill; if the verdict had been different, it's likely that the Twin Cities would be under siege now; and, sometimes it snows in April (or would that be always?).

We decided to gamble and trust our community's resilience because we needed live performance. We need it.

As a space for congregation, the theater invites us to contemplate what it's like to be another human being, and to do so alongside others. The audience sees and listens as an ephemeral community. Although as members of Macalester we have met most at today's performance, we have seldom shared space over the past fourteen months. As we gather at this outdoor theater, we welcome the process of reacquainting ourselves with each other.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the creative teams—faculty, staff, students—and to Professor Paul Overvoorde, co-chair of the Infectious Disease Task Force, for working together to make these performances safe. I am also grateful to the sun, who pushed away the rain and cold that castigated us during tech week.

The word *theatron* is derived from the ancient Greek verb *theaomai*, “to see,” “to watch in awe and enthusiasm.” I wish you nothing less.

- Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento, Theater and Dance Department Chair

Spring 2021 Dance Concert: Inside Out

Wednesday April 28, 6:00 pm

Saturday May 1, 6:00 pm

Sunday May 2, 12:00 pm

Choreographers

Patricia Brown

Lu Chen '22

Wynn Fricke

Kiều My Trương '21

Skye Reddy '22

Mai Moua Thao '22

Aleah Wong '22

Costume Designer Lynn Farrington

Stage Manager Holiday O'Bryan '24



Director's Notes



In a time when physical proximity is dangerous, our community of choreographers has created dances in living rooms, in studios inside locked buildings, and through zoom computer screens. Working in a form that understands itself through touch and presence, we have wrestled to find ways to connect and shape ideas through distance. Together, apart.

Our bodies are our home: they are the landing place of our feelings, the medium of our work, and where our differences are made apparent. Physical distance affects us in different ways. The killing of Mr. George Floyd turned the Twin Cities into the epicenter of our nation's struggle to come to terms with its painful history of racial violence. In this time of racial reckoning, our community aspires and is challenged to hear and hold one another across the diversity of our lived experiences.

It is in this context that the six works of *Inside Out* were created.

In all the uncertainty and complexity surrounding the 2021 Spring Dance Concert, Tom Barrett and his crew have built a stage and set, Lynn Farrington has created costumes, Johanna Lorbach has managed every detail, and Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento has willed the way. We are pleased to have the opportunity to dance for you in the open air today.

Thank you for being here.

- Wynn Fricke, April 2021

Title: An Elegant Edge

Choreography: **Wynn Fricke** in collaboration with the dancers

Music: “Contritus” by Caleb Burhans and “Tenju-an Garden of Nanzen-ji Temple” by Kaija Saariaho

Performers:

Lu Chen

Anna Greenstein

Ekaterina Hofrenning

Skye Reddy

An Elegant Edge takes inspiration from “Durer’s Solid”, an 8-faced geometrical form depicted in Albrecht Durer’s 1514 engraving *Melencolia*.

Title: i am not from here

Choreographer: **Kiều My Trương**

Music: “Mount Shrine” by Subtotem, “Those Who Can't, Cheat” by Clarence Clarity, “Warm Winds” by SZA, featuring Isaiah Rashad, “It's Okay to Cry” by SOPHIE

Performer: Kiều My Trương

Exploration of being inside and outside of a body, being connected to spirit, and just being.

Title: In Phase

Choreographer: **Aleah Wong & Mai Moua Thao**

Music: “Dramatic Violins” by Grooving Gecko, “Turbulence” by Paul Cosme, Ambiance Mix by Mai Moua Thao

Performers: Aleah Wong & Mai Moua Thao

This dance piece explores coexistence between two separate forces, Eos and Selene, the embodiments of the dawn and the moon. Their connection, which transcends space and time, is inevitable with each passing of day and night.

Title: Crisp Crease

Choreographer: **Skye Reddy**

Music: “Physical Description Of The Last Human Beings” by Jóhann Jóhannsson, “Updraught” by Zoë Keating, “moth-like stars - Pt. 1” by Max Richter

Performer: Skye Reddy

Drawing inspiration from the geometric unfolding of an origami lotus, Crisp Crease is an architectural solo in three parts. The piece explores themes of growth and expansion, from the smallest organism to the creation and destruction of stars.

Title: I Will be Leaving Soon, Too

Choreographer: **Lu Chen**

Music: “Céleste/Après” by René Bedolla, “Drift” by Jan Jelinek, “You're Too Precious” by James Blake

Performer: Lu Chen

In this solo piece “I Will be Leaving Soon, Too,” Lu wants to reflect on their struggle of mental illness, especially depression and anxiety. They want to express the changing stages of living with disability and looking forward to the bigger picture. Lu hopes their friends and mentors are doing okay at this time.

Title: LOVE IS THE MESSAGE

Choreographer: **Patricia Brown**

Music: “Love Is The Message” by MFSB

Performers:

Karin Davey 18'

Precious Dlamini 21'

Maud Grauer 19'

Kubunya Karubiu 22'

Likhwa Ndlovu 21'

Christian Reece 19'

Addisa Rigaud 21'

Niara Williams 18'

I chose this piece of music because the title is a big part of my life and heart work, and surely because it's funky. I wish it was an embodied practiced global anthem. The dance was born out of not having a lot of space to move at home during the pandemic, and being on Zoom, where a line dance became a workable option. With everything going on in the world, we have to remember that love is ultimately what we as human beings need to be growing, living, and sharing! "BE LOVE!" Contrary to popular belief, it truly is the message y'all!



Patricia Brown is a faculty member of Macalester's Theater and Dance Department, where she teaches Dances of the African Diaspora, and is the director of Brown Spirits Dance Ensemble. She's been a member of the Twin Cities arts community for 27 years as a dancer, instructor, choreographer, and mentor, and was on faculty in the Dance Department at the University of Minnesota for 22 years. She also teaches at primary and secondary schools, and choreographs for professional theater, and choirs. Her performance, and choreographic work has been seen on many local, and national stages. Over the years, she has received a number of awards for her work. Most recently, she received Macalester's Educator of the Year Award in 2020.

I thank Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento for her support. I also thank the entire production team for all of your hard work.

I thank each cast member of BSDE (present and past) for your continuous commitment, joy, and communal spirit! I especially thank the members of this past year for enduring dance on Zoom! I'm grateful for you all!

I dedicate this work to Donna Lee. Thank you for your presence, above and beyond dedication, groundedness, focus, depth, grace, sight, light, wisdom, and respect. You will be missed enormously!

I pay homage to my most recent ancestors, Margaret Hughes/Mama Pat, Shawn Brown, and Krista Bolden, and in remembrance of Mike Wangen, Yolanda Bruce, Anthony Chisolm, and Don Campbell.

To everyone present, BE a Beautiful Day, and as you go on your way, BE Light, BE Grateful, and BE Love!



Lu Chen'22 is a junior Theater and Dance and Psychology double major. They started dancing at Macalester College in fall 2018 with guidance of Wynn Fricke and quickly fell in love with this art form. They have been taking as many dance classes as they can and have been learning at Ananya Dance Theatre, helped by Toan Doan '19. They also have performed at 20% Theatre Company.

Apart from dance, Lu is interested in visual art, art history, and music. They are committed to social justice practice for queer people of color, especially those who are suffering with mental health issues. Special thanks to Wynn Fricke, Kat Purcell, Krista Langberg, Tom Barret, Lynn Farrington, Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento, Skye Reddy, and Harry Waters Jr.



Wynn Fricke is an independent contemporary choreographer, dancer, and somatic educator. Her choreography has been presented internationally, with over thirty commissions from organizations such as the Walker Art Center, Zenon Dance Company, Minnesota Dance Theatre, The Yard, Frank Theater, Performa/Dance, Borrowed Bones Dance Theatre, and James Sewell Ballet. For two years, she served as Choreographer-in-Residence with Minnesota Dance Theatre in Minneapolis, MN. In 2018 her choreography *Just Her Time*, created for Macalester students, was selected by an adjudicated panel of the American College Dance Association for performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Inside/Out at Jacob's Pillow in Becket, MA. Fricke is an Assistant Professor (NTT) in the Department of Theater and Dance.



Mai Moua Thao '22 (she/her) is a junior double majoring in Media & Cultural Studies and Theater and Dance, with a minor in Psychology. Mai is grateful for the opportunity to create art with her dear friend Aleah who encouraged her to continue her dance journey at Mac. Mai likes to eat rice.



Kiều My Trương '22 (they/them) is using art and dance to breathe life. Sometimes the breath feels like an escape, sometimes it feels like being completely present in their body.. in this life, on this earth. This artist from Kansas is still discovering the universe. They're also getting a degree and majoring in American Studies in the meantime.



Skye Reddy '22 is a junior Theater and Dance major with an interest in choreography and dance filmmaking. This is their fourth mainstage production at Macalester, and the first one in which they are choreographing. They have previously performed in two dance concerts and *Letters| Home*, a devised dance-theater work. Currently, Skye works in the costume shop on campus and is interning with Threads Dance Project in Minneapolis.

I'd like to thank the THDA faculty members that took the time to provide feedback and reassurance when I needed it, and for making this entire production possible to begin with. I would also like to thank my dear friends for putting up with my complaining, being constantly busy with rehearsals, and repeated requests for origami; you know who you are.



Aleah Wong '22 (she/her) is a junior Environmental Studies and Biology double major. She is excited to share this duet with you. Aleah also enjoys rice (more than Mai). ;)

Aleah and Mai would like to thank Sister Patricia for her guidance and encouragement! They would also like to thank Paul Cosme for whipping up "Turbulence" in such a short amount of time!

I'm Going to Go Back There Someday

Written and directed by Asher de Forest '21

Thursday April 29, 6:00 pm

Saturday May 1, 12:00 pm

Sunday May 2, 6:00 pm



This performance contains themes of grief
and loss, and may not
be appropriate for all ages.

Presented in partial fulfillment of
Honors in Theater and Dance.

Cast and Creative Team

Garry Feldman – Ndunzi Kunsunga '22

Rachel Feldman – Kendall Kieras '24

Joni Johnson – Elinor Jones '21

Mohammed Ben Halim – Ezra Nayagam Muthiah '24

Puppet/Simon – Louie Siegel '24

Prophet/Abe – Dipakshi Sarma '24

Mariner – Amanda Jackson '23

Director – Asher de Forest '21

Stage Manager – Asa Benjamin '23

Assistant Stage Manager – James Calhoun '24

Set Designer – Aidan Endo '22

Props Designer – Abbee Warmboe

Assistant Props Designer – Amanda Gonzales '24


Sound Designer – Olivia Nyman '22

Costume Designer – Lynn Farrington

Assistant Costume Designer – Skye Reddy '22

Faculty Advisors – Harry Waters Jr. and Mina Kinukawa

Director's Notes



How can we learn to live with loss? How can we connect across great divides and distances? How can we love when we're hurting?
How can't we?

I'm Going to Go Back There Someday is many things. It's a comedy, it's a drama, it's sometimes even something like a tragedy. It's a road trip narrative and a mixed-up myth. There are miracles. There is magic. There is everyday life, the ordinary and the extraordinary. And there are lots of hauntings.

I began writing *I'm Going to Go Back There Someday* in the spring of 2019. I've spent the last several months, first on Zoom, then (hallelujah!) in-person, discovering the play anew as a first-time director.

The question, "How do we stage all this?" is one thing. Asking "How do we stage all this now?" is a whole other beast. Yes, distanced, masked, and outside. But on a deeper level, how do we bring this story involving grief and death to life onstage during a time when we are surrounded by constant reminders of death and are given, it seems, so little time to grieve?

One thing I've learned from working with the incredible cohort who've made this production happen is that the answers to these questions are inherently theatrical. As a team, we collectively realized early in the process that we wanted the audience to see some of our sleights of hand, our brushstrokes and sketch lines. At the same time, this is also a piece rooted in that elusive thing we call truth. Often, the play's "many things"—its worlds—blend. Sometimes, they remain distinct. That's the balance. That's the work and the play of this play.

"There's not a word yet for old friends who've just met," Gonzo sings in "I'm Going to Go Back There Someday," the song (from 1979's *The Muppet Movie*) which lends this play its title. He's right. We still don't have that word. But whatever the word is for my village of collaborators on this project, I'm proud to call them my new old friends.

Thank you for joining us on the road and in the whale. I hope you enjoy the ride.

—Asher de Forest, April 2021



Music

"I'm Going to Go Back There Someday" by Paul Williams and Kenny Ascher. Performed by Dave Goelz. Produced by Paul Williams.

"Help" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. Performed by Ezra Nayagam Muthiah.

"Juice" by Melissa Jefferson, Eric Frederic, Theron Thomas, Sam Sumser, and Sean Small. Performed by Lizzo, and Elinor Jones, Ezra Nayagam Muthiah, and Ndunzi Kunsunga. Produced by Ricky Reed and Nate Mercereau.

"Klezmer Hava Nagila." Folk song. Produced by POND5 user Vlzmusic, and performed by Elinor Jones, Ezra Nayagam Muthiah, Kendall Kieras, and Ndunzi Kunsunga.

"Baby Beluga" by Raffi and Debi Pike. Performed by Raffi. Produced by Raffi and Ken Whiteley.

"Waltz for Pony" by Valeska Steiner. Performed by BOY. Produced by Philipp Steinke.



Asa Benjamin (he/they) '23 is a sophomore Theater and Dance major, Performance Design and Technologies minor, and prospective Creative Writing and Music double major/minor. This is his first stage management experience, and he is beyond grateful to Asher, James, Tom, Johanna, and the entire THDA team for their support while he learns. They have been in two Macalester productions: *Rocky Horror* and *Twelfth Night*. Thank you to everyone joining us in this whale, and to all our lovely sailors. We couldn't do it without you.



James Calhoun (he/him) '24 is a freshman from Pasadena, CA. *I'm Going to Go Back There Someday* is his first production at Mac, and he would like to thank everyone involved for their confidence and enthusiasm. James has not yet declared a major, but is eager to continue in THDA in the coming years.



Asher de Forest (he/him) '21 is a senior Theater and Dance/English (Creative Writing) major from Kirkland, WA. This is his first experience directing a full-length show, which he couldn't have done without the production team, cast, department, Harry, and many, many others (included in the acknowledgments!). Asher's short plays include *The Virgin Tony*, *Flood Times*, and *Lilith and Eve*. He is currently writing his second full-length play. Asher acted in Mac's *The Cherry Orchard*, *Letters/Home*, and *The Rocky Horror Show*, and stage managed *Perspectives*. He dedicates this production to his dad. Extra thanks and big love to Mom and Jonah.



Aidan Endo (she/they) '22 is a junior Theater and Dance major with a Design and Technologies of Performance minor. She is deeply grateful to Tom, Mina, Lynn, and Cláudia for their mentorship in the design process. Big thanks also to Calvin for all their work on this project, to Asher for being a talented artist and kind human, and to the rest of the production team for being fantastic collaborators.



Lynn Farrington, Costume Designer (she/her), began a professional career in costume design at the Chimera Theater. She has been Resident Costume Designer and Costumer at Macalester College for over thirty years, and has designed over sixty main stage productions, numerous studio productions, and in more recent years has overseen departments dance concerts as well.



Amanda Gonzales (they/he/she) '24 is a first year student from Racine, WI who is intending to minor in Performative Technologies and Design, with a possible Asian Studies Major. In addition to being a stagehand for Como la Tierra, he is also the Assistant Prop Designer for I'm Going to Go Back There Someday. He cannot wait to continue to grow within Macalester's Theater community as well as gain more knowledge, experience, and connections along the way. She would like to thank Jessica Y., Aidan E., and Tom for their continued support and guidance through her journey into the Theatre world here at Mac. They would also like to send additional love to their Best Friend Antonia, who has been their number one support since High School back in WI.



Amanda Jackson (she/her) '23 is a sophomore Spanish major from Burnsville, Minnesota. She is excited to perform in her first show with the Theater and Dance department! Special thanks to Asher and the whole cast and crew for creating such a beautiful community and piece of art even in these difficult times.



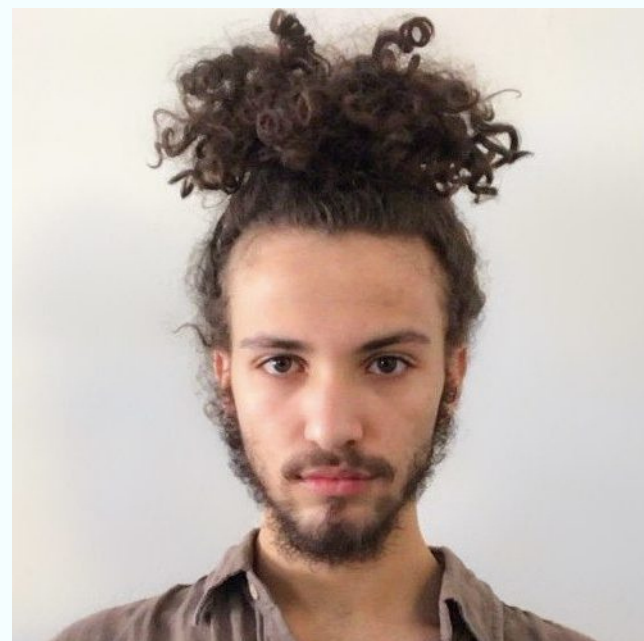
Elinor Jones (she/they) '21 is a senior Theater & Dance and Music double major planning to stick around the Twin Cities theater scene after graduation. Favorite THDA roles include working with Johanna in the THDA office, Janet in *The Rocky Horror Show*, and Dr. Zavala in Jack Reuler '75's production of *Distracted*. She is so grateful to Asher for this gift of a play and the opportunity to grow alongside him and it for the last few years. They would like to thank the THDA department for all of the valuable experiences, as well as her friends and family for their support.



Kendall Kieras (she/her) '24 is a freshman at Macalester College. She has previously held roles in *She Kills Monsters*, *The Election*, and (until it was cancelled due to COVID), *Mamma Mia*. In addition, she captained her school's theater sports team for the 2019–20 school year, and last summer were a member of the Seattle 2020 Brave New Voices slam poetry team. Last year, she founded her own queer led production company, Third Charm Films, writing and directing a miniseries currently in post production. She spends entirely too much time thinking about reality tv.



Ndunzi Kunsunga (he/him) '22 is a junior Environmental Studies major with a Mathematics concentration and minors in Psychology and Theater (Yes he's aware that's a mouthful). Life goals include helping others and world peace. He will get back to you on the how. Obsessed with stories, he is very appreciative to be a member of this cast along with other funny folks. Favorite THDA memory thus far? Probably all of it.



Ezra Nayagam Muthiah (they/them) '24 is a first year from Pasadena, CA, planning to double major in Theater & Dance and American Studies. They look forward to continuing to create and discover with the Theater & Dance department, and have been thrilled to be part of I'm Going to Go Back There Someday. Many thanks to Asher and the whole team for making this what it is!



Skye Reddy (they/them) '22 is a junior Theater and Dance major with an interest in choreography, costuming, and dance filmmaking. Although they have built costumes for previous Macalester productions such as *The Rocky Horror Show*, this is their first time assistant costume designing. Currently, Skye is performing their own choreography at the Spring Dance Concert while also interning with Threads Dance Project in Minneapolis.



Dipakshi Sarma (she/her) '24 is a prospective International Studies and Psychology double major from Assam, India. This is her first THDA performance at Mac. Auditioning and rehearsing on Zoom brought its own moments of joy, stress and hope but thanks to the marvelous cast and crew, this has been a wonderful experience. She is grateful to the team, the THDA department and loved ones who have comforted and challenged her throughout this process and the pandemic.



Louie Siegel (he/him) '24 is a prospective Political Science major and a proud member of the Class of 2024. He is ecstatic to be a part of his first theater production at Macalester and is grateful for the opportunity to create art during these unprecedented times. A special thanks to the cast, crew, and our entire team for your commitment to making this possible. Here's to a year of renewed joy, health, and peace for all. Enjoy the show!



Abbee Warmboe (she/her) is a freelance props designer based in Minneapolis. Having grown up in Minnesota she is happy to have made her career for herself here, working on over 200 productions with 36 different companies over the last decade. Most recently her work could be seen at Theater Latte Da, Theater Mu, Penumbra Theatre, Mixed Blood theatre, History Theatre, The Ordway Center, among others. Abbee is a 2020-2021 McKnight Theater Artist Fellow at the Playwrights' Center. She is also the props coordinator at the University of MN.



Acknowledgments

Infinite thanks to my honors advisor, Harry Waters Jr.; my capstone professor, Beth Cleary; and THDA department chair, Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento. I could not have asked for a better trio of mentors and advocates through this journey.

Thank you to the theatre professionals who read this play and provided invaluable feedback: my official THDA readers Miranda Rose Hall and MJ Kaufman, and Corey Atkins (via the Playwrights Realm's Script Share program).

Thank you to Aidan Endo and Mina Kinukawa for the beautiful set, as well as Cal Friedman for their ideas and hard work. Thanks to Angus Fraser for the awesome poster design. Where would I be without technical director, Tom Barrett; costume designer, Lynn Farrington; and department coordinator, Johanna Lorbach? Stage manager, Asa Benjamin, and assistant stage manager, James Calhoun, you rock! Thank you to sound designer, Olivia Nyman. Thank you to props manager, Abbee Warmboe, and assistant props manager, Amanda Gonzales. Thank you to assistant costume designer, Skye Reddy. Thank you to this cast! Ndunzi Kunsunga, Kendall Kieras, Elinor Jones, Ezra Nayagam Muthiah, Louie Siegel, Dipakshi Sarma, and Amanda Jackson, I hope you know how much I admire you all.

This play would not exist if I hadn't taken my first playwriting course with the incomparable Alayna Jacqueline. Other professors who have nurtured my growth as a writer and director: my academic advisor Mark Mazullo; Harrison David Rivers and Randy Reyes—both of whom reached out with such kind, specific, and helpful notes during module 3—and Wynn Fricke, Bob Rosen, Darrius Strong, and David Melendez in THDA; Andrea Kaston Tange, Ben Voigt, Daylanne English, Emma Törzs, Jim Dawes, Penelope Geng, Peter Bognanni, and Michael Pryor in ENGL; and Kristi Curry Rogers.

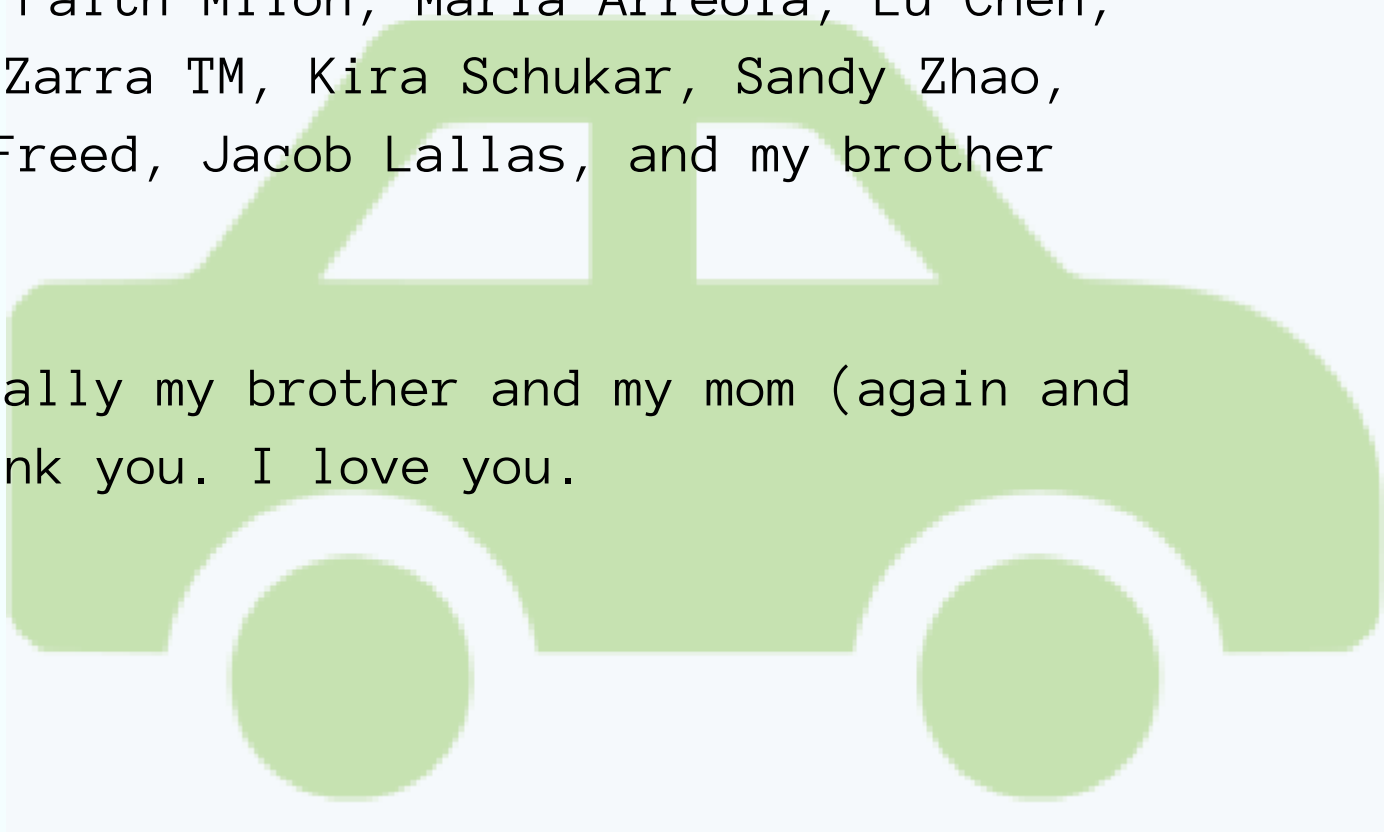
God bless Rabbi Emma Kipley Ogman, Imama Hajara Shareef, and Reverend Kelly Stone in the CRSL. Thanks also to Finn Odum, Macalester Jewish Organization, Muslim Student Association, and Queer Faith Community.

Thanks to Ginny Moran and Katharine Horowitz for their advice on copyright and fair use.

Actors who participated in readings at various stages in the script's development include Adam Clark, Becca Lewis, Dominic Rogers, Kiran Arquin, Ruby Rich, Kalala Kiwanuka-Woernle, Jennings Mergenthal, Rachel Warshaw, Jesse Claire, James Crutcher, Betsy Foy, Anna Schloerb, Jessica Yates, Andrew Lee, Lola Vescovo, Jess Nguyen, Smith Mayse, and Phoebe Thoroughman.

So many friends, family, exes, and strangers have supported this project along the way. Thank you to the crew; to everyone who auditioned; to my peers in Playwriting and Textual Analysis, including first draft dramaturg, Hannah Catlin; and to my fellow THDA honors seniors Gretta Marston-Lari and Adar Kamholtz-Roberts. Over the last two-plus years, I've received script feedback from Teddy Holt, Katia Sievert, Mykel Thompson, Gwen Berliner, Beth Goldberg, Angela Shenoy, Aisha Al-Amin, Katie Lopez, Olivia Lopez, Miller Shor, and my mom Elizabeth de Forest. Thank you to project cheerleaders Mina Kianovsky, Alexandra Whitman, Conor Broderick, Teresa Padrón, Alex Jabbarpour, Riley Schlichte, Julian Applebaum, Faith Milon, Maria Arreola, Lu Chen, Ches Cipriano, Richard Graham, Gillian Gold, Zack Dizdar, Zarra TM, Kira Schukar, Sandy Zhao, Libby Sykes, Janey Fredman, Maya Crandall-Malcolm, Sachi Freed, Jacob Lallas, and my brother Jonah de Forest.

All the gratitude and love in the world to my family, especially my brother and my mom (again and always), and my dad, Michael Goldberg. Thank you. I love you.



Como la Tierra



Written by Gretta Marston-Lari '21

Friday April 30, 6:00 pm

Saturday May 1, 2:30 pm

Sunday May 2, 3:30 pm

This performance contains racist slurs, as well as themes of sexual assault, death, domestic violence, gun violence, and police/military violence, and is not appropriate for all ages.

Presented in partial fulfillment of Honors in Theater and Dance.

With additional support from the Macalester Sustainability Office.

Cast and Creative Team

Juana Puyka – Gretta Marston-Lari '21

Micaela Puyka – Maria Arreola '21

Salvador – Marc Mutka '22

Mama Urma – Xiomara Lozano Torres '21

Tamaya – Laura Botero Vallejo '21

Silvia – Sheida Rashidi '23

Mother Earth – Mai Moua Thao '22

Patrón/Nestor – Kiran Arquin '21

Niña/Juana's Mother/Miner – Anna Schloerb '23

Patrona/Radio Host/Miner – Julia Chamberland '23

Niño – Patrick Coy-Bjork '23

Miguel – Enzo La Hoz Calassara

Wami – Bianca Carter

Antonia/Swing/Bystander – Korayma Llumiquinga Lapham '24

Julio M/Bystander – Sebastian Coll '19

Co-directors – Jessica Yates '22 and Gretta Marston-Lari '21

Stage Manager – Jessica Yates '22

Assistant Stage Manager – Bean Baumstark '24

Assistant Stage Manager – Miles Latham '24

Costume Designer – Lynn Farrington

Assistant Costume Designer - Skye Reddy '22

Set and Props Designer – Aidan Endo '22

Sound Designer – Kiran Arquin '22

Intimacy Director – Shae Palic

Faculty Advisors – Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento and Mina Kinukawa

Stagehand - Amanda Gonzales '24

Director's Notes

Why do so many of us confuse ownership with love? Conquest with consent? Abuse with affection? The consequences of equating these actions are felt most severely by women and by the earth. The work of writing, co-directing, and performing this musical has been guided by my feminist, environmental and anti-colonial convictions. My hope is that this story will challenge violent conceptions of love and inspire care for ourselves, for girls of color and for the planet.

I wrote the first draft of *Como La Tierra* in Spanish, after travelling around Peru with the SIT Study Abroad Program in the Fall of 2019. There, I conducted field research about the Tia Maria Mining Conflict that my musical is based on. In the Summer of 2020 I completed a Playwrights' Intensive at the National Theatre Institute and developed a 30 minute draft in English that was produced virtually. Now, the THDA department at Macalester is giving me the opportunity to co-direct and stage my musical in-person with the help and support of faculty advisors and student designers and performers. This is an absolute dream come true for me.

I am honored to tell the story of Juana Puyka, a *campesina* from Arequipa, Peru who fights fearlessly to defend her community's valley from the mining company that is soon to exploit and pollute their sacred *Pachamama*. Juana's story holds a mirror to the real stories of the women that lead the fight against Southern Copper Corporation starting in 2007.

I feel grateful knowing that you chose to be here today and I thank you for taking a moment to receive this story. Be prepared to hear traditional Peruvian music and to witness the power of women's resilience and its unbreakable link to the earth.

–Gretta Marston-Lari, April 2021



Maria I. Arreola (she/her) '21 is a senior at Macalester College majoring in Sociology and Political Science with a minor in Spanish and Theater. (She absolutely loves playwriting. If you get the chance, talk to her about playwriting). She's a recipient of the Kennedy Center Region 5 John Cauble Short Play Award and her play *Floating Girls Go To The Moon* is a National Semifinalist for the 2021 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. She is currently a member of the Minnesota Young Women's Cabinet and was recently selected to join the 2021-2022 Cohort of Fellows in the New York Service and Justice Collaborative Program.



Kiran Arquin (he/him) '22 is a junior Theater and Dance major at a Macalester, is playing Nestor and Patron, and is so happy to finally be doing theater again. He has been in 3 shows at macalester so far: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Twelfth Night* (which unfortunately got cancelled due to COVID) but that only makes him so much more excited to finally be back on stage again.



Bean Baumstark (they/them) '24 is a freshman with an undeclared major, although they are considering environmental science and technologies of performance. They are very excited for their first production with Macalester's theater department.

Enzo La Hoz Calassara (he/him) is a high school sophomore currently attending Anoka High School. This is his Macalester Theater and Dance Department debut, and he is honored to be able to participate in Gretta's production. His performance experience includes shows with the Children's Theater Company, the History Theater in St. Paul, Productions in the Lab Theater in Minneapolis performing with Minnesota Opera's Project Opera program, and voice-over work with Studio 120. When not on stage he enjoys a wide range of activities, from playing in his school's orchestra, jazz band, and drumline, writing music, poetry and prose, jamming out with friends, and reading in hammocks. He would also like to thank his wonderful family and mentors for their never-ending support in all his crazy endeavors.



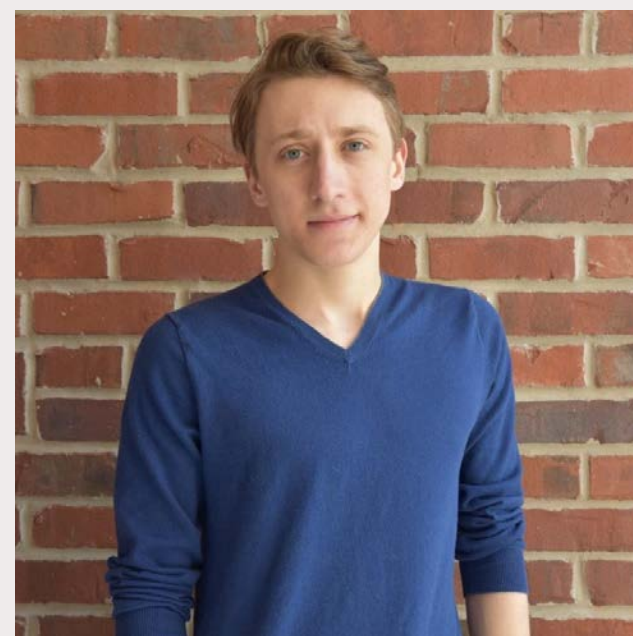
Bianca Carter (she/her) is in third grade, and her favorite subjects are English, art, and recess. Outside of school, she loves to draw, cook, and read. She especially loves books about animals and weird-but-true facts. *Como La Tierra* is her acting debut! Bianca would like to thank Gretta, Jessica and the Macalester Theater and Dance Department for this wonderful opportunity.



Julia Chamberland (she/her) '23 is a sophomore studying Environmental Studies and Geography. While this is her first production at Macalester, she has been in numerous plays and musicals, both in the cast and crew. Favorite roles include Annie in *Annie*, Lucy in *Narnia*, Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid*, and the Player in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. In her free time, you'll probably find Julia in the kitchen whipping up something tasty or at the piano. She is beyond excited to be a part of *Como La Tierra* and hopes you enjoy the show!



Sebastian Coll (he/him) '19 is excited to be back with Macalester theater working on this incredible production. He's been previously involved with shows on campus both through department as well as the Musical Theater Org. Currently an AmeriCorps member with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, he spends his time outside of work and theater biking, climbing, trying his best at the piano, and putting together "book clubs" that end up being aimless Zoom hangout sessions.



Patrick Coy-Bjork (he/him) '23 is a sophomore majoring in Theater and Psychology, and he is so happy to be a part of this incredible student-created work. Patrick has participated in theater throughout his life and would've performed in Macalester's unfortunately cancelled 2020 spring production of *Twelfth Night*. Patrick is particularly focused on playwriting, having written and produced a farcical murder mystery in his senior year of high school. Outside of theater, Patrick loves playing music, taking walks while listening to podcasts, and watching all of the reality-competition TV shows in the world.



Aidan Endo (she/they) '22 is a junior Theater and Dance major with a Design and Technologies of Performance minor. Previous experience includes work with Theater Mu, Pangea World Theater, and numerous lighting, scenic, and technical credits at Macalester. She is deeply grateful to Tom, Mina, Lynn, and Cláudia for their mentorship in the design process. She has had a great time working with so many talented people! Aidan's first Macalester production was Gretta's *Currently Untitled*, so she feels that things are coming full circle. She thinks this show tells a story that needs to be told and hopes you enjoy it.



Lynn Farrington (she/her) began a professional career in costume design at the Chimera Theater. She has been Resident Costume Designer and Costumer at Macalester College for over thirty years, and has designed over sixty main stage productions, numerous studio productions, and in more recent years has overseen departments dance concerts as well.



Korayma Llumiquinga Lapham (any) '24 declared their Music Major two weeks into their first year at Macalester and while that may have been a tad too soon, she doesn't regret her decision at all. Their experience includes performing with Chayag en Familia, their family band, and studying Andean music in Quito, Ecuador at the Universidad Central de Ecuador. Offered the chance to collaborate with Gretta on CLT production, Korayma saw an opportunity to work on something meaningful to them and for that she extends her kindest thanks to Gretta. She would also like to extend her thanks to her family (in Oregon, Ecuador, and Australia) for their support and the production team for making such a project possible.



Amanda Gonzales (they/he/she) '24 is a first year student from Racine, WI who is intending to minor in Performative Technologies and Design, with a possible Asian Studies Major. In addition to being a stagehand for Como la Tierra, he is also the Assistant Prop Designer for I'm Going to Go Back There Someday. He cannot wait to continue to grow within Macalester's Theater community as well as gain more knowledge, experience, and connections along the way. She would like to thank Jessica Y., Aidan E., and Tom for their continued support and guidance through her journey into the Theatre world here at Mac. They would also like to send additional love to their Best Friend Antonia, who has been their number one support since High School back in WI.



Miles Latham (he/him) '24 is a first-year who has not declared a major but is thinking about Linguistics, Creative Writing, Theatre, and Educational Studies as possibilities. This is Miles' second production with Macalester, but first time on the crew. He's thrilled to get to work backstage again, especially with such an awesome cast (special shoutout to Enzo and Bianca)! His previous experience includes Portals at Macalester and many productions in the Grinnell community. Miles would like to thank Gretta, Jess, his co-ASM Bean, and everybody else who came together to help tell this amazing story.



Marc Mutka (he/him) '22 is a junior at Macalester studying English Literature and Political Science with a concentration in Legal Studies. Marc's previous production experience includes a role in Macalester's *Letters|Home*, and he is absolutely ecstatic for the opportunity to work in theater one again. In his free time, Marc enjoys playing guitar, reading classic British literature, and volunteering at local immigration legal clinics here in the Twin Cities. Marc extends his deep love and appreciation for Gretta and the entire cast as well as the amazing faculty and staff of the Theater Department!



Gretta Marston-Lari (she/they) '21 is a senior, graduating with a double major in Latin American Studies and Theater and Dance. She is from Lima, Peru and Boca Raton, FL. Gretta is an aspiring playwright with a music and dance background. They became a Miranda Family Fellow after a Playwright's Intensive at the National Theatre Institute's 2020 Summer Program. Gretta has previously performed in the Macalester production of *The Cherry Orchard* and in a professional production of *Dapper Purple Plushie Co* by Gemma Irish. Most recently, Gretta directed and performed in *Currently Untitled*, a devised piece about marginalized identities on campus. They have written six plays and produced four of them virtually. *Como La Tierra* will be the first staged production of her work and she is deeply grateful to her family, to the theater department and to all her collaborators for helping bring this story to Macalester.



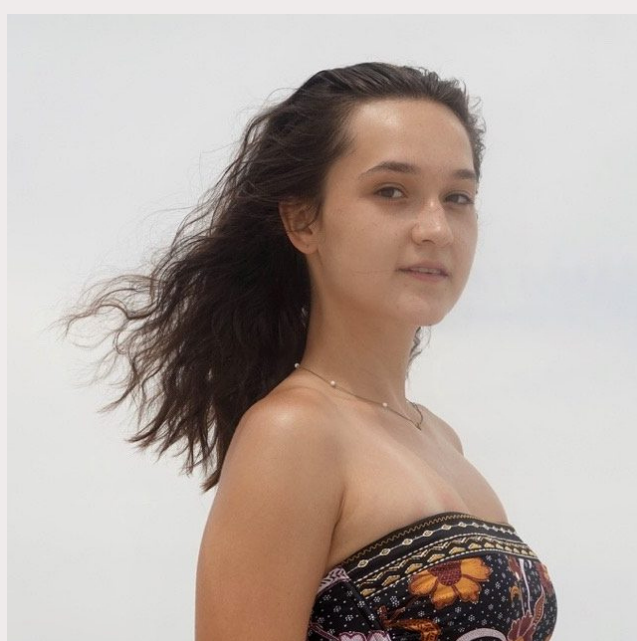
Shae Palic is so honored to have been asked onboard this project. She is a working Intimacy Directory in town, and has worked with the Minnesota Opera, the University of Minnesota and other theatre companies around the twin cities. She has logged 62 hours of Intimacy Directing training with IDC Professionals as well as continually taking various other Bystander Intervention and EDI trainings; including Mental Health First Aid certification. She would like to invite you to carve out a moment of self-care after you take in this production.



Skye Reddy (they/them) '22 is a junior Theater and Dance major with an interest in choreography, costuming, and dance filmmaking. Although they have built costumes for previous Macalester productions such as *The Rocky Horror Show*, this is their first time assistant costume designing. Currently, Skye is performing their own choreography at the Spring Dance Concert while also interning with Threads Dance Project in Minneapolis.



Sheida (Silvia) Rashidi (she/her) '23 is a sophomore international student from Iran, double majoring in Psychology and Computer Science. She showed interest in theatre and music at a young age and has participated in different school productions and directed her own solo piece projects. This is her first musical theatre production, and she is really thankful to the creative team for giving her a chance to be part of such an experience-rich project. She enjoys doing DIY projects, singing, and laying under the sun in her free time, and she hopes to continue working with the Theater & Dance department in the future.



Anna Schloerb (she/her) '23 is a sophomore at Macalester College with a potential American Studies Major and Music and Theater minor! Anna's theater career started when she was 4 with the acclaimed student written production of the *Ugly Bubble Butterfly*, performing as the Ugly Bubble Butterfly! Though no role can compare she is super excited to be working with Gretta and this amazing production company on this incredibly moving show! She wants to thank her Abuelita "Ita" for inspiring one of her roles.



Mai Moua Thao (she/her) '22 is a junior majoring in Media & Cultural Studies and Theatre & Dance, with a minor in Psychology. Mai has participated in a number of Macalester Dance Concerts. Her main craft is filmmaking, with an emphasis on Asian-American representation. She is grateful for this opportunity to expand her artistic abilities and enthused to work with Gretta, the cast members and production team.



Xiomara Lozano Torres (she/her) '21 is a senior studying neuroscience. This will be her first Macalester production and she is excited for this opportunity! Xiomara has previous high school experience in theater, primarily behind the scenes building sets and doing lights and sound. When not in rehearsals or doing school work, she is probably watching *Criminal Minds* (Matthew Gray Gubler <3) or snacking.



Laura Botero Vallejo (she/her) '21 is a senior international student from Cali, Colombia, majoring in neuroscience and psychology. She is thrilled to be part of this production as it opens up space for necessary conversations about environmental degradation and endangerment of rural communities in Latin America due to corrupt licensing of mining projects. When Laura is not rehearsing, she enjoys having great cuddling sessions with her cat Dalí. She is very thankful to her housemates for putting up with (and sometimes joining into) her sporadic performances of the songs you will enjoy during this performance!



Jessica Yates (she/her) '22 is a junior THDA major with a Directing focus, Performance Design & Technologies minor, and Critical Theory concentration. She is thrilled to be working with Gretta and this production's company. Her collaboration experience includes interning, assistant directing, or performing with Theater Mu, the One-Minute Play Festival (#1MPF), 2020 Freestyle Collegiate Company, Macalester College Theater & Dance Department, Sod House Theater, the Soapbox Players, and the Sheldon Theater. She is deeply grateful for Tom, Cláudia, Lynn, and Johanna and their fantastic guidance, the designers and their passion, for the company and their wonderful energy, for Gretta for everything, and to the Carnegie fire escape (if you know, you know).

Acknowledgements

Mentors

Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento and Harrison David Rivers

Production Team

Jessica Yates, Korayma Llumiquinga, Calvin Friedman, Aidan Endo, Shae Palic

Cast

Marc Mutka, Maria Arreola, Kiran Arquin, Xiomara Lozano Torres, Laura Botero Vallejo, Sheida Rashidi Ardestani, Mai Moua Thao, Anna Schloerb, Julia Chamberland, Korayma Llumiquinga, Enzo LC, Bianca Carter, Sebastian Coll

Family

Nora Lari-Castrillon, Edward Marston-Valdivia, Gloria Marston, Erica Parks, Nicolas Miller-Lari

Macalester Faculty

Beth Cleary, Johanna Lorbach, Thomas Barrett, Lynn Farrington, Mina Kinukawa, Randy Reyes Olga Gonzalez, Ernesto Ortiz Diaz, Paul Dosh, Xavier Haro-Carrion, Ernesto Capello

Playwriting Peers

Miller Shor, Asher de Forest, Maria Arreola

Casting

Nora Montañez, Cristina Florencia Castro, Eric Carter

Play Research (SIT Study Abroad)

Alex Alvarez, Sonia Fullerton

Play Development (National Theater Institute)

Donna DiNovelli, Sarah Einspanier, Karen Olivo, Josh Wilder, Ren Dara Santiago, Maddie Prentice, Arlyss Hays, John Richard Mateyko, Adam Venrick, Miranda Holliday, Savannah Ritz, Annika Perez-Krikorian

Music Arrangements

Alex Llumiquinga, Charles Marston, Edward Marston, Paul Marston, Stefan Miller-Lari, Isaac Endo, Brandon Hill, Mali Cassak

Choreography

Carlos Enrique Suintaxi Lincango, Shae Palic

Sound

Kiran Arquin, Lucas Martin

Feedback

Kiera Collins, Maddie Lee, Kosby Wonacott

TOUCHING QUEERNESS:



PERFORMING UTOPIA IN A PUBLIC BATHROOM

Adar Kamholtz-Roberts

Presented in partial fulfillment of Honors in Theater and Dance

Creative Team

Cinematographer - Sierra Campbell '21

Costume Designer - Lynn Farrington

Faculty Advisor - Wynn Fricke

This project is a site-specific dance that takes place in a men's bathroom on Macalester campus. I created this work out of my research on site-specific dance and performance theorist José Esteban Muñoz's theory of queer utopia. I attempt to treat the bathroom as a dance partner, negotiating what movement and freedom is possible in everyday spaces where gender is scripted and controlled.

This piece was filmed and is not part of this week's in-person performances.

For viewing information, email thda@macalester.edu.

Production Staff

Technical Director - Thomas Barrett

Technical Assistant - Brian Fox '18

Sound Engineer - Matt Bombich

Sound Engineer Assistant - Lucas Martin '24

Sound Board Operator (Dance Concert) - Adar Kamholtz-Roberts '21

Department Chair - Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento

Publicity and Coordination - Johanna Lorbach

Poster Design - Kashvi Ajitsaria '22, Angus Fraser '22, Jennifer Huang '22

Photographers - Amy Jeanchaiyaphum, Rich Ryan, Caroline Yang

Videographer - James Peitzman

Childcare Provider - Miles Latham '24

Set Construction

Asa Benjamin '23, Aidan Endo '22, Joe Jessop '24,

Ezra Kline '23, Ndunzi Kunsunga '22, Olivia Nyman '22

Costume Construction

Amber Brown, Betsy Foy '22, Skye Reddy '22, Lily Turner '24

Macalester Theater and Dance Department Faculty and Staff

Faculty

Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento (Chair), Patricia Brown, Beth Cleary, Wynn Fricke, Jill Lile, Mina Kinukawa, and Harry Waters, Jr.

Staff

Joel Arpin, Thomas Barrett, Lynn Farrington, Brian Fox, Franco Holder, Johanna Lorbach, Patricia Lyles, and Ahanti Young

Visiting Artists and Faculty

Cheryl Moore Brinkley, Miranda Rose Hall, Krista Langberg, Justin Leaf, Jenn Pray, Randy Reyes, Harrison David Rivers, Bob Rosen, Marciano Silva dos Santos, and Darrius Strong

Student Staff

Malyn Banitt-Moore, Asa Benjamin, Aidan Endo, Betsy Foy, Luka Fraase, Angus Fraser, Tinsley Glenn, Jennifer Huang, Joe Jessop, Elinor Jones, Ezra Kline, Ndunzi Kunsunga, Olivia Nyman, Skye Reddy, Maya Schaefer-Fiello, Elliot Wareham, and Aleah Wong



Theater and Dance Department

The Theater and Dance Department at Macalester College prepares the next generation of performers, directors, choreographers, designers, researchers, technicians, and playwrights. Our department offers small academic and studio courses in which students are closely mentored by expert faculty. In our class schedule, you will find a variety of theater and dance courses at all levels. We encourage students without previous experience to try a beginning course in acting, dance, design, or playwriting.

Macalester College is in a privileged location for students interested in the arts. The Twin Cities have the second highest number of theater companies per capita in the United States, after New York City, and Theater and Dance Department courses commonly bring students to on and off-campus theater and dance productions. Many Theater and Dance alumni continue to work and produce art in the Twin Cities, where the Minnesota State Arts Board provides crucial funding and support to artistic work. Current students often have the opportunity to meet influential local alumni, leading to exciting and unique opportunities for internships, mentorship, and collaborative projects.

For more information about THDA courses, performances, and opportunities, visit our website: macalester.edu/theater-and-dance

Ruth Easton Endowment for Dramatic Arts

The Theater and Dance Department is grateful to the Ruth Easton Endowment for the Dramatic Arts for its support of many Theater and Dance Department activities.

Ruth Edelstein Easton, Macalester Class of 1921, was born and raised in North Branch, Minnesota. After graduation, Ruth studied for a year at Macalester before leaving the Midwest to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles. From there, she moved to New York City, where a friend introduced her to producer Oliver Morosco. Soon after, Ruth was on Broadway, acting with stars such as Clark Gable, Douglas Fairbanks, Ethel Barrymore, Judith Anderson, Walter Huston, and Al Jolson. She was also actively involved in radio dramas, performing in such shows as “The Rudy Valle Hour” and “The Fleischmann’s Yeast Hour.”

Later inheriting the fortune of her brothers—Dave and Jack Edelstein, who invented a paper-coating process considered the predecessor of plastic wrap—Ruth donated both time and money to acting programs throughout the country. She served as a benefactor for many Twin Cities theaters, including the Ordway, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and the Playwrights’ Center.

When Ruth Edelstein Easton passed away in 1998, the Ruth Easton Endowment Fund was her gift to Macalester. The fund supports cooperation between the Theater and Dance Department and educational sites in the community, as well as bringing guests to campus.