

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS



THE SPRING SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

APRIL 18 - 19 @ 8:00 P.M.


“THE WEEDS IN MY GARDEN”

CREATED BY

HANNAH LIM AND ASHTON RITTER

MILLER THEATER, CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

**2023-2024
SEASON**

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DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

Mission Statement: As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

messiah.edu/departments/theatre

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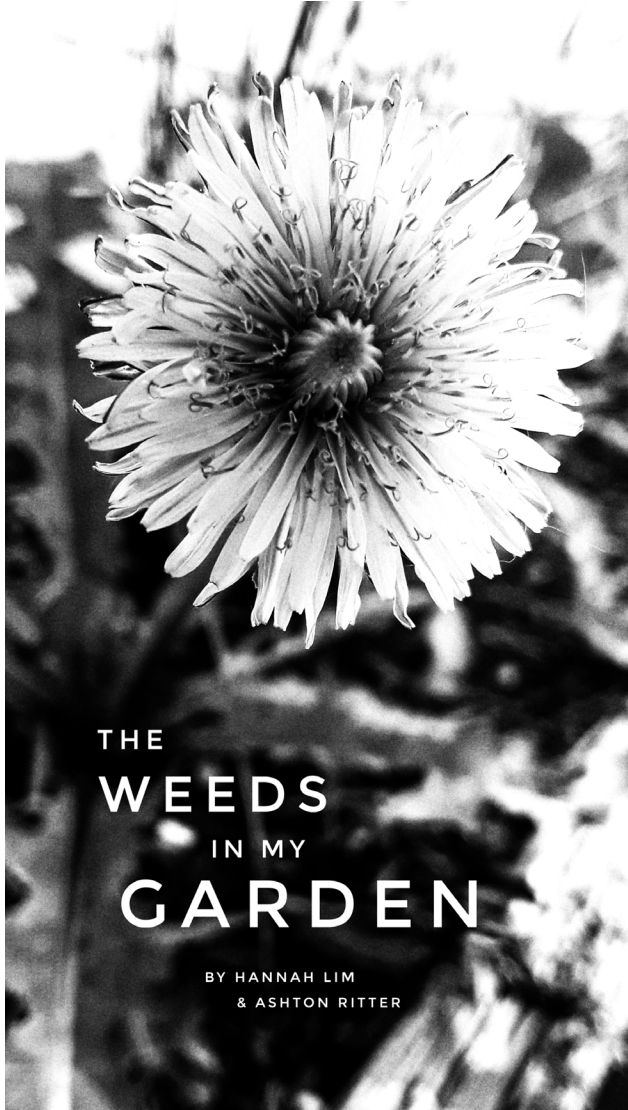


Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance

THE PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOTAPING, OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

“THE WEEDS IN MY GARDEN”

Created by Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter



CAST

Ivy	Ashton Ritter
Fern	Hannah Lim
Anne, Ivy's weeds, angel	Julia Kropp
Autumn, Fern's weeds, angel.....	Hannah Baitz
Charles, angel	AJ Espada

PRODUCTION TEAM

Choreographers/Directors	Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter
Stage Manager.....	Lea Ratos
Scenic Designers.....	Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter
Costume Designers.....	Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter
Lighting Designer	Lea Ratos
Lighting Designer Mentor.....	Makayla Peltz
Sound Designers	Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter
Show Image Design.....	Ashton Ritter
Hair and Makeup Designers	Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter
Properties Masters.....	Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter
Project Advisor	Gregg Hurley
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinators	Meredith Hensel, Hannah Wilburn
House Manager.....	Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie
Light Board Operator	Lea Ratos
Sound Board Operator.....	Louis Renda
Stage Hand.....	Nathan Steinbach

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank our advisor Professor Gregg Hurley for giving wonderful and constructive advice, graciously letting us bombard you with questions, and being our biggest supporter. Many thanks to our amazingly talented and brilliant dancers who willingly joined our project and endured the long hours of rehearsals with us. We could not have done this without you! We greatly appreciate our fantastic crew for helping us with the technical aspects of our production. We see all that you do behind the scenes to make this show so much better, thank you! We would also like to thank the members of the Department of Theatre and Dance for giving us the approval, advice, and avenue to perform our senior show. Last but not least, we would like to thank our friends and families for all their love and support! And thank YOU for watching!

PROGRAM ORDER

Late to the Party

Choreographer: Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Pretty People

Choreographer: Hannah Lim

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim

jealousy, jealousy

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Lies

Choreographers: Julia Kropp & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Honest

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Intro III

Choreographer: Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Julia Kropp, Ashton Ritter

Self Sabotage

Choreographer: Hannah Lim

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, Hannah Lim

God Only Knows

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Limitless

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Girl in the Mirror

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

Scars to Your Beautiful

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

So Am I

Choreographers: Hannah Lim & Ashton Ritter

Dancers: Hannah Baitz, AJ Espada, Julia Kropp, Hannah Lim, Ashton Ritter

A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

Ever had parts of yourself that you wished to hide? Have you ever felt you couldn't compare to those around you? Faced a battle against yourself that left you feeling defeated? Many of us run from who we are, chasing a dream to be like everyone else and forgetting we are stronger when we embrace the unique parts of ourselves. We are so wound up listening to the critiques that we forget to look to the Creator. All God creates is wonderful and we as humans, His greatest creation, should embrace who He created us to be. "The Weeds in My Garden" explores deep insecurities and thoughts around being different and the battle to break free from them. As creators of the show, we are two different sides of a coin with distinctly different dance backgrounds in experience and style. We saw this as an opportunity to create something that transforms our differences into a masterpiece. This production would not have been possible without our collaborative effort, as it allowed us to create something we couldn't have created independently. The entire process of our senior show is a testament to the message we intend to share. We are blessed to present this story to you and invite you to embrace the journey along with us!

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well" Psalms 139:13-14

Hannah Lim and Ashton Ritter, Creators

BIOS

Ashton Ritter (Ivy): Ashton is a second-semester senior majoring in theatre. Her experience includes stage managing *Dinosaur*, working crew for *Once Upon A Mattress* and *Clue*, and wardrobe crew for *Noises Off*. Some previous dance performances include Blue Christmas, Culmination, and Anger/Love from "Letting Our Walls Crumble". She is thankful for her wonderful senior partner, cast, and crew who made this production possible. She appreciates her friends and family for their limitless love and support!

Hannah Lim (Fern): Hailing from Malaysia, Hannah is a senior dance major with a minor in pre-counseling and therapy. She has trained in the dance styles of ballet, modern, and tap since she was four, and is continuing to learn various dance styles such as hip-hop and jazz. At Messiah, she has performed in several dance shows. Some notable performances include Blue Christmas, Humanities Symposium, Culmination, International Gala, and "Letting Our Walls Crumble". She is excited to share this story and dance production with everyone and is very grateful for all the love and support she has received from friends and family. She greatly appreciates Ashton, the cast and crew, and the faculty at Messiah for all the effort they have put into this show!

Julia Kropp (Anne, Ivy's weeds, angel): Julia is a sophomore dance and marketing dual major and has been dancing since she was five. She was trained in ballet for most of her life but really enjoys all the styles. She has been in many on-campus performances both in the department and out. She is the vice president of Footprintz as well. Being able to be a part of so many shows with different stories and styles brings her so much joy and she had such a good time doing this one.

Hannah Baitz (Autumn, Fern's weeds, angel): Hannah is a senior applied health science pre-occupational therapy major with a minor in psychology. After graduation, she will be attending Messiah's occupational therapy graduate program this summer. Prior to coming to Messiah Hannah did gymnastics and dance for several years. Throughout her time at Messiah, she has danced in several Acclamation Dance Ministry shows and has had the opportunity to teach acro-jazz and contemporary as well as dance in other styles such as modern, tap, and jazz. This is Hannah's first show with the Dance Department, and she is beyond thankful to be a part of this performance!

AJ Espada (Charles, angel): AJ is a first-year dance major who has been dancing since he was fifteen and has loved dance ever since. His favorite style of dance is hip-hop. He has been in Humanities Symposium Dance Concert at Messiah and is excited to perform again and share his love for storytelling and Jesus.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This production features the following musical selections:

“Late to the Party” by Emei

Music and lyrics by Emily Li, Jamie Gelman, and Lucas Sim

“Pretty People” by Sophie Pecora

Music and lyrics by Sophie Pecora

“jealousy, jealousy” by Olivia Rodrigo

Music and lyrics by Olivia Rodrigo, Casey Smith, and Daniel Nigro

“Lies” by Will Jay

Music and lyrics by William Behlendorf and Samantha Elizabeth Creighton

“Honest” by Kyndal Inskip and Song House

Music and lyrics by Cydney Fam, Dennis Cook, Dorian Lackey, Tyler Ward

“Intro III” by NF

Music and lyrics by Nate Feuerstein and Tommee Profit

“Self Sabotage” by Abe Parker

Music and lyrics by Abe Parker

“God Only Knows” by for KING & COUNTRY

Music and lyrics by Joel Smallbone, Luke Smallbone, Federico Vindver, Jordan Reynolds, Josh Kerr, Tedd Tjornhom

“Limitless” by The Piano Guys

Music by Al van der Beek and Steven Sharp Nelson

“Girl in the Mirror” by Bebe Rexha

Music and lyrics by Neil Ormandy, Ingrid Address, and Jonas Jeberg

“Scars to Your Beautiful” by Alessia Cara

Music and lyrics by Alessia Caracciolo, Brian Lee, Warren Felder, Andrew “Papa Justifi” Wansel, Coleridge Tillman

“So Am I” by Ava Max, ft. NCT 127

Music and lyrics by Amanda Ava Koci, Gigi Grombacher, Victor Thell, Henry Walter, Maria Jane Smith, Martin Sue, Roland Spreckley

WHO WILL CARRY THE WORD? Written by Charlotte Delbo, Directed by Ed Cohn and Carmi Wilmot

"Who Will Carry the Word?" is a deeply moving recount of French writer Charlotte Delbo's survival during the Holocaust. The play depicts the atrocities during this unfathomable time in history, painting an emotionally raw picture of enduring the unimaginable. While "Who Will Carry the Word?" is based on existence in concentration camps, it also portrays how in times of despair, mankind comes together—bonded by strength and courage—to find hope and the will to escape a dire fate.

Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 5 - 7 at 8 pm; Oct. 8 at 3 pm

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurley

Fall musical theatre cabaret.

Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 28 at 8 pm; Oct. 29 at 3 pm

ALABAMA STORY Written by Kenneth Jones, Directed by Daniel Inouye

As the Civil Rights movement is brewing, a controversial children's book about a black rabbit marrying a white rabbit stirs the passions of a segregationist State Senator and a no-nonsense State Librarian in 1959 Montgomery, Alabama. Meanwhile, the story of two childhood friends – an African American man and a woman of white privilege, reunited in adulthood – provides a private counterpoint to the public events swirling in the state capital. Political foes, star-crossed lovers, and one feisty children's author inhabit the same page in a Deep South of the imagination that brims with humor, heartbreak and hope. Inspired by true events.

Miller Theater Nov. 9-11, 17-18 at 8 pm; Nov. 12 & 19 at 3 pm; *Nov. 16 at 10 am special school performance

BLUE CHRISTMAS Directed by Gregg Hurley

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with this lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance with this intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent.

Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 16 at 7pm

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 1 at 8 pm, Dec. 3 at 3 pm; Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 8-9 at 8 pm, Dec. 10 at 3 pm

2024 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way.

Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 23 at 4 pm; Feb. 24 at 8 pm

THE SPITFIRE GRILL Music and book by James Valcq, Lyrics and book by Fred Alley, Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff, Directed by Ed Cohn. Based on the hit film, "The Spitfire Grill" is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance, and family. A torn page from an old travel book sparks parolee Percy Talbot to journey to a small town in Wisconsin. There she finds a new life working at the Spitfire Grill. The folks in this depressed town have more to worry about than Percy's past, but fear and hesitancy turn to friendship when Percy schemes to revive the old grill by raffling it off. The entry fee is one hundred dollars, and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full, and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

Miller Theater Feb. 29, March 1-2, 5-7 at 8 pm; March 2-3 at 3 pm; *March 5 at 10 am special school performance

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

Poorman Black Box Theater March 22 - 23 at 8 pm; Miller Theater April 18-19 at 8 pm

CULMINATION '24: SPRING DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is an artistic endeavor. Celebrate spring and the dance accomplishments of Messiah University's theatre and dance department in an offering of favorite dance pieces from the year, new faculty work, student adjudicated creations, and senior capstone projects all in one fun and glorious dance concert!

Miller Theater April 12 at 8 pm; April 13 at 2 pm

THE STUDENT DIRECTED ONE-ACT PLAY FESTIVAL & SHOELESS JOE: MUSICAL CABARET

A festival of student-directed and fully produced one act plays! Join us for several evenings of fresh, inventive, and innovative story telling.

Poorman Black Box Theater April 26 - 27 at 8 pm & April 27- 28 at 3 pm