



The Student Directed One-Act Play Festival



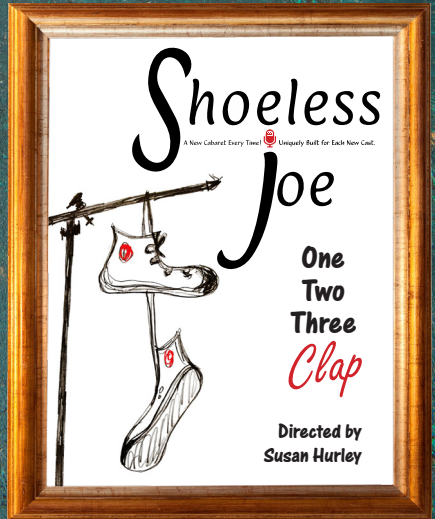
A festival of student-directed and fully produced one act plays!
Join us for several evenings of fresh, inventive, and innovative
story telling. Each performance will include a selection of
productions on a rotating basis.



APRIL 26 - 27 @ 8 p.m.

APRIL 27 - 28 @ 3 p.m.

Poorman
Black Box Theater,
Climenhaga Building



Messiah University
Department of Theatre and Dance presents

The Student Directed
One-Act Play
Festival
and
Shoeless Joe: Musical Cabaret

Poorman Black Box Theater, Climenhaga Building
April 26 - 27 at 8 p.m. & April 27- 28 at 3 p.m.



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

CONNECT WITH US!

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



@MUTheatreandDance



Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance

**ANY VIDEO AND/ OR AUDIO RECORDING
OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager..... Madalyn Oliver
Scenic Designer Tymberley Whitesel
Costume Designer Elizabeth Angelozzi
Lighting Designer Tristan Stasiulis
One-Act Play Festival Producer Daniel Inouye
Technical Director..... Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinators Hannah Wilburn, Meredith Hensel
House Manager Ashton Ritter
Sound Board Operator..... Ella Murray

SET & COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Set and costume construction was completed with the help of the Messiah Theatre and Dance Department Work Study Students.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME PERFORMANCES MAY CONTAIN MATURE
CONTENT AND MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR ALL AUDIENCES.
VIEWER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.**

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 AT 8 P.M. & SATURDAY, APRIL 27 AT 3 P.M.

Shoeless Joe: Musical Cabaret

**One
Two
Three**

Clap

Directed by Susan Hurley

Sure Thing

By David Ives

Directed by Solangie Almeyda

A Tale of Two Spectators

By Peter Manos

Directed by Reannah Weiss

I Dream Before I Take the Stand

By Arlene Hutton

Directed by Megan Eich

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 AT 8 P.M. & SUNDAY, APRIL 28 AT 3 P.M.

Trifles

By Susan Glaspell

Directed by Ashlyn Moore

Foreign Gifts

By Nina Kossman

Directed by Meredith Hensel

Happily Ever After?

By Laura Sebastian

Directed by Hannah Wilburn

Graceland

By Ellen Byron

Directed by Makayla Peltz

A Castle Broken Apart

By James Hanson
Directed by Ella Shane

There will be one 10-minute intermission at each performance.

Sure Thing

By David Ives
Directed by Solangie Almeyda

SURE THING was first produced at the Manhattan Punch Line Theatre in New York City, in February 1988, Steve Kaplan, Artistic Director.

CUSTOM COLLECTION, GRACELAND (BYRON), SURE THING is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

CAST

Betty Hope Adedokun
Bill Nathan Steinbach

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I hope this witty show reminds you of the amazing connections you've made with people despite some awkward first impressions. I hope you grow to cherish those who are in your life because of some specific order of events that led to you knowing each other. God puts people in our lives for a reason and this show is part of my learning to appreciate them. Special Thanks to Lauren Forlow for helping with Sound Design and Megan Eich for programming all of our sound cues! Enjoy the show!

Solangie Almeyda, Director

Graceland

By Ellen Byron

Directed by Makayla Peltz

CUSTOM COLLECTION, GRACELAND (BYRON), SURE THING is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

CAST

Bev..... Meredith Gardner
Rootie Yanira Perez

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Everyone has that one thing that they look up to or adore a lot. It could be a person, a movie, a song, an object, a place. Oftentimes, these things we adore or look up to are associated with memories. For these two ladies, Elvis holds a special place in their hearts for various reasons. For one, it's for her marriage, for the other, it's for her brother. And for me, Elvis reminds me of my late uncle. My most vivid memory is of him singing along to "Blue Christmas" in his red truck and young me laughing at his Elvis impression. Do you have something that you hold close to your heart because it reminds you of someone or brings up a memory? The association often brings a sense of nostalgia, whether in the melancholic sense or peaceful sense. What I hope for you, is that during the show, you are reminded of your own adorations and why you had held those close, and maybe allow yourself to discover the reasons why people may have these - what we would call - "crazy" obsessions.

Makayla Peltz, Director

I Dream Before I Take the Stand

By Arlene Hutton

Directed by Megan Eich

I DREAM BEFORE I TAKE THE STAND is produced by special arrangement
with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

CAST

She.....Clara Bellot
He.....Reed Milliken

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

RAINN (the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) has found that for every 1,000 incidents of sexual assault, only 310 will be reported and of those 310, only 25 cases will result in the perpetrator facing incarceration. *I Dream Before I Take the Stand* tells the story of thousands of people in the U.S. who are victims of not only unimaginable violence but also ostracization from society and the imposed shame that results from victim blaming. My hope is that this piece serves as a time for audiences to reflect and build empathy as they face the reality of this all-too-common occurrence in our society and legal system.

Further resources for information and victim-care:

- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-4673
- RAINN National Awareness and Assistance: <https://www.rainn.org/>
- Lancaster YWCA victim care opportunities: <https://ywcalancaster.org/saam/>

Megan Eich, Director

Happily Ever After?

By Laura Sebastian

Directed by Hannah Wilburn

HAPPILY EVER AFTER is produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

CAST

Luella Eliza Mast
Ismelda..... Rebecca Methven
Cinderella Abby Crispin
Prince Charming.....Matthew Featherson
Persephone Hope Knisley

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fairy tales truly have a magic and power about them that I think as adults we may not remember as much. I grew up with Disney movies, and stories of princesses, wild adventures, true love and magic. I wanted to be a princess and wear gorgeous gowns and have a fairy godmother who could grant me anything I want. But as I got older, the magic of fairy tales started to dwindle, as the real world began to kick in. As I have been entering into the theatre world, and learning the magic of theatre, although not as fantastical as in a fairy tale, magical all the same, I wanted to find ways to generate that feeling of childlike wonder and magic for those coming to see my shows; and what better way to do that than a fairy tale! I'm sure most of you know the story of Cinderella, but what I love about this show is that it takes a more realistic approach to it, even though there are ball gowns and fairy godmothers, not everything is as magical and mystical as Disney may make it seem ;). I hope this show can bring out the child in all of you, but also show you that the magic we were enamored by as children can still be found in our world today!

Hannah Wilburn, Director

A Tale of Two Spectators

By Peter Manos

Directed by Reannah Weiss

A TALE OF TWO SPECTATORS is produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC., of Woodstock, Illinois.

CAST

WomanEleanor Mund
Man.....AJ Espada

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I first read *A Tale of Two Spectators*, I knew I had to direct it. I fell in love with the way it sheds light on a really serious subject, all while remaining fun and humorous. I hope that you will both laugh, and shed a tear as you watch this production, and I hope that in watching, it becomes abundantly clear that a “fun little fling” is not fun. Cheating should not be romanticized; it should be ostracized.

Reannah Weiss, Director

Foreign Gifts

By Nina Kossman

Directed by Meredith Hensel

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<http://offthewallplays.com>

CAST

Sonia Tara Pitcher

Raya Adahlee Schroeder

SETTING

An Apartment in Moscow. Where a simple conversation over dinner turns into a “Cold War” debate on Socialism and Capitalism.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am grateful for this opportunity to direct a one-act play at Messiah. I would like to thank my actors, my friends and family, and my husband Stephen for their love and support, as well as God for the many blessings he has given me and this opportunity. I hope the audience will take from this play the need for difficult conversations in our society today and the importance of exploring different viewpoints as well as appreciating the freedom that we take for granted.

Meredith Hensel, Director

A Castle Broken Apart

By James Hanson

Directed by Ella Shane

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<http://offthewallplays.com>

CAST

Lana Gianna Warner
Rebecca Julia Itson
Isaac..... Ethan Reisler

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Castle Broken Apart is a story of trying to escape when you feel broken and caged. I have personal experience with feeling trapped when in a relationship that is supposed to feel loving, and I know that is more common than we would like to think. I chose this show because of the tough themes that are presented in it. Emotional abuse and neglect are harder to quantify or show proof of, but they can have effects that are just as severe as other more obvious forms of abuse. There are people in my life that can unfortunately relate to some of the characters in my show, and I think that makes it an important story to tell. Showing someone that they are not alone can go a long way in helping them reach a place of healing and safety. I hope that this show helps foster a greater sense of kindness and empathy in each of us as we don't know who may be experiencing similar situations in each of our lives.

Ella Shane, Director

Trifles

By Susan Glaspell
Directed by Ashlyn Moore

CAST

Mrs. Hale..... Ashley Sheffe
Mrs. Peters..... Julianna Osburn
George Henderson (County Attorney) Michael Casey
Lewis Hale..... Sammi Shuma
Henry Peters (Sheriff) Nathan Perlis

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Trifles (1916) was Susan Glaspell's first play and is based on a real cold case murder of John Hossack. Glaspell covered this story as a reporter when it happened in December 1900. She was unsettled with the idea of coming into a woman's house and trying to turn it against her, which sparked the writing of *Trifles* and later the short story *A Jury of Her Peers*. She was so connected to this story that in the first production of it, she acted as Mrs. Hale.

I have been drawn to this story for many years, and every time I have the privilege to experience it, I discover even more things that Glaspell included in this story. This story was very telling of who we were as a society, and unfortunately, it still holds true in certain regards. As a society, we have become so disconnected from the pain of others, leading us to live our lives in isolation. To quote Mrs. Peters, "Somehow we just don't see how it is with other folks until - something comes up," and I do not believe this is how God designed us to be. We were born to be social creatures, and when we are left alone in isolation, it can lead us to do terrible things. *Trifles*, by Susan Glaspell, is a wonderful commentary on our world and human characteristics, and even though it is a sad story, through the two women there is a message of hope that our world could change if we show love to those around us.

Ashlyn Moore, Director

Shoeless Joe: Musical Cabaret

One Two Three *Clap*

Directed by Susan Hurley

CAST

Clara Bellot	Julia Itson	Julianna Osburn
Abby Crispin	Ashlyn Moore	Yanira Perez
Sierra Emery	Eleanor Mund	Alden Walker
Nathan Hurley	Ella Murray	

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Susan Hurley
Accompanist	Bob Feil
Music Rehearsal Assistant	Alden Walker
Stage Manager	Rebecca Zheng
Scenic Designer	Tymberley Whitesel
Costume Designer	Elizabeth Angelozzi
Costume Assistant	Lydia Matson
Lighting Designer	Tristan Stasiulis
Sound Designer	Alysse Whaley
Properties Master	Julia Itson
Hair and Make-up Designer	Alysse Whaley
Technical Director	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinators	Hannah Wilburn, Meredith Hensel

Assistant Stage Manager.....	Alysse Whaley
Deck Manager	Julia Itson
House Manager	Ashton Ritter
Light Board Operator	Makayla Peltz
Sound Board Operator.....	Alysse Whaley

PROGRAM

“Pick-A-Little, Talk-A-Little/Goodnight”Cast
The Music Man - Music & Lyrics: Meredith Wilson

“Simple Little Things” Julianna Osburn
110 In the Shade - Music: Harvey Schmidt; Lyrics: Tom Jones

“If Mamma Was Married”Clara Bellot, Yanira Perez
Gypsy - Music: Jule Styne; Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

“At the Fountain” Nathan Hurley
The Sweet Smell of Success - Music: Marvin Hamlisch; Lyrics: Craig Carnelia

“So Long Dearie” Sierra Emery
Hello Dolly - Music & Lyrics: Jerry Herman

“You Must Meet My Wife” Alden Walker, Eleanor Mund
A Little Night Music - Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

“A Little Bit In Love”Clara Bellot
Wonderful Town - Music: Leonard Bernstein; Lyrics: Betty Comden & Adolph Green

“Where’s My Shoe?” Abby Crispin, Nathan Hurley
She Loves Me - Music: Jerry Bock; Lyrics: Sheldon Harnick

“I’ll be Here”Ella Murray
Ordinary Days - Music & Lyrics: Adam Gwon

“The Worst Pies in London” Julia Itson, Alden Walker
Sweeny Todd - Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

“My Friends” Alden Walker
Sweeney Todd - Music & Lyrics: Stephen Sondheim

“I Want It All” Sierra Emery, Ella Murray, Ashlyn Moore
Baby – Music: David Shire; Lyrics: Richard Maltby, Jr.

“Ideal World” Eleanor Mund
Made in Dagenham the Musical – Music: David Arnold; Lyrics: Richard Thomas

“Easy Street” Julia Itson, Abby Crispin, Nathan Hurley
Annie – Music: Charles Strouse; Lyrics: Martin Charnin

“Promise Me This” Yanira Perez
The Theory of Relativity – Music & Lyrics: Neil Bartram

“Promise Me This” Reprise.....Cast
The Theory of Relativity – Music & Lyrics: Neil Bartram

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Shoeless Joe Cabaret has a slightly different bent and genesis this spring. All selections are from the 300-level course, Acting for Musical Theatre. To honor the goal of the AMT course, Shoeless Joe: One Two Three Clap is built as a musical theatre showcase. In four short class sessions and a few tech rehearsals the students have adapted their course studies into one seamless show. This semester’s show has offered a valuable applied learning opportunity in preparation for the fast-paced professional musical theatre industry! As always, this Shoeless is a new show, built for a new unique cast and this team has stepped up to the Shoeless Joe plate with gusto! So sit back, relax and enjoy this year’s twists, turns, laughs and tears...

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