

Messiah University Department of Theatre and Dance Presents

BY THE BOGG OF CATS

Written by

Marina Carr

Directed by


Daniel Inouye


October 3-5
8:00 p.m.

October 6
3:00 p.m.

Poorman Black Box Theater,
Climenhaga Building

2024-2025 SEASON

@MUTheatreandDance 

Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance 

BY THE BOG OF CATS is presented by special arrangement
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THIS PRODUCTION CONTAINS PROP WEAPONRY
AND IS INTENDED FOR MATURE AUDIENCES
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 MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

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By the Bog of Cats was first performed at the Abby Theatre, Dublin, on October 7th, 1998.



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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saw tonight, please
spread the word on
social media!**



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ARTISTIC TEAM

Director.....	Daniel Inouye
Assistant Director.....	Ella Shane
Stage Manager.....	Reannah Weiss
Scenic Designer.....	Tymberley Whitesel
Costume Designer.....	Elizabeth Angelozzi
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Clara Bellot
Lighting Designer.....	Tristan Stasiulis
Sound Designer.....	Rebecca Methven
Properties Masters.....	Garty Bowersox, Julia Itson, Grace Stover, Lyric Penland
Hair and Make-up Designers.....	Ella Murray, Solenna Mack
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager.....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator.....	Abby Crispin

CAST

Hester Swane.....	Eleanor Mund
Carthage Kilbride.....	Ben Vanderlin
Mrs. Kilbride.....	Ashley Sheffe
Josie Kilbride.....	Yanira Perez
Catwoman.....	Adahlee Schroeder
Monica Murray.....	Sierra Emery
Caroline Cassidy.....	Ella Murray
Xavier Cassidy.....	Michael Casey
Father Willow.....	Austin Galbreath
Ghost Fancier, U/S Xavier Cassidy.....	Garty Bowersox
Joseph Swane, U/S Carthage Kilbride.....	Nathan Perlis
Young Dunne, U/S Josie Kilbride/Ghost Fancier.....	Hope Knisley
Waitress, U/S Hester Swane/Monica Murray.....	Aurora Lindsey
Waitress, U/S Caroline Cassidy/Mrs. Kilbride.....	Anika Peterson

RUNNING CREW

Assistant Stage Manager.....	Yong En Zheng
Wardrobe.....	Ashleigh Pinkstaff
Sound Board Op.....	Tyler Lynch
House Manager.....	Lilly Davey

SET & COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

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

SETTING

The play's action takes place in the Irish Midlands, along the edge of a bog in winter.

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As the students and I have been working on *By the Bog of Cats*, a question has been persistently on my mind: Why do we engage in this intense, often unsettling process of sharing tragic stories? What value do we find in revisiting the tragic tale of Medea? And what wisdom, what urgent cautions, do we glean from this emotional journey that makes these two fleeting hours so profoundly worth our while? I would argue that this play's central question—what becomes of those discarded by their society—is a question that demands our attention. This haunting tale is not just a narrative of loss, but a mirror, urging us to reflect on how our choices, our neglect, may push others to the margins of their own lives.

ON TRAGEDY

By the Bog of Cats is a ghostly, visceral reimagining of Euripides' *Medea*, transposed to the mist-shrouded Midlands of Ireland, where the mystical intertwines with the inevitable hand of fate. Carr's poetic yet gritty drama follows the ancient Greek structure, exposing the brutal rawness of betrayal, alienation, and revenge. Here, as in *Medea*, we encounter a woman on the brink—Hester, much like her mythic counterpart, is trapped between the past and a hostile present. Estranged from her roots, shunned by a prejudiced society, she is abandoned for a younger bride and greater wealth after playing a pivotal role in her lover's rise. Both women's lives are haunted by divine forces, marked by an impending wedding, the absence of a mother, and that inescapable thread of classical tragedy: the fatal flaw. It is the inability to bend in the face of unbearable circumstance that seals their fates. It's thrilling to bring Marina Carr's evocative exploration of *Medea* to life—allowing us to peer through Hester's eyes, feel the weight of her despair, and recoil at the horrific lengths she goes to reclaim control of her world.

ON ACCENTS

Here at Messiah, our productions are laboratories for learning. Just as students stretch themselves by donning corsets, performing under the demanding glare of a spotlight, or mastering the art of costume design, they also challenge themselves to embrace the sounds and rhythms of unfamiliar cultures. I invite our audience to listen with generosity, to allow the flavors of these accents to transport you to mysterious landscape of the Bog. The goal is not perfect authenticity, but rather to capture the essence of the Irish cadence. Our actors are at various stages of mastering accents, and it's important for them to experiment, fail, succeed, and try again—and they do so with your support and open ears.

Director Daniel Inouye

CAST BIOS

Garty Bowersox (Ghost Fancier, U/S Xavier Cassidy) is a first-year student at Messiah. He is a double major in English education and theatre. He is very thankful for this cast and crew for helping him grow as an actor and a person. His previous theatre experiences include *Beauty the Beast* (Assistant Choreographer) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Claudio), *Willy Wonka* (Willy Wonka), and *R&H Cinderella* (Prince Topher).

Michael Casey (Xavier Cassidy) is a junior English middle education major. He enjoys music and hanging out with his friends and family. Some of his favorite past credits include *Fahrenheit 451* (Fire Chief Beatty) in his high school, and *Alabama Story* (Senator Higgins) in college. Michael is thrilled to bring his love for storytelling to the stage in this production of *By the Bog of Cats*!

Sierra Emery (Monica Murray) is a senior at Messiah University, majoring in musical theatre. She is thrilled to be performing in Messiah's fall production. She has appreciated the opportunity to learn a new accent and continue to grow as an actress. She would like to praise God for this opportunity, her softball team, Professor Dan, and her cast and crew for their love and support.

Austin Galbreath (Father Willow) is a first-year math high school education major at Messiah. Some previous credits include *Pirates of Penzance* (Ensemble), *Seussical*, and *The Secret Garden*. He was also seen in *Guys and Dolls* (Big Jule). Austin would like to thank Dan for giving him this opportunity, as well as his family, friends and God for supporting him.

Hope Knisley (Young Dunne, U/S Josie Kilbride/Ghost Fancier) is a sophomore elementary and special education major at Messiah. Hope has recently been seen in *Happily Ever After...?* (Persephone) and *Red House Monster* (Cora). She would like to thank her family for their endless support. She is honored to have been part of this cast and hopes you enjoy the show!

Aurora Lindsey (Waitress, U/S Hester Swane/Monica Murray) is a musical theatre major who is eager and blessed to work with such amazing people here at Messiah U! She is currently a sophomore (transfer) student, and this is her very first non-musical play she has participated in. She has been taught that sharing difficult stories helps us better understand what God expects of us in His light, rather than ignoring the darkness! (James 1:17)

Eleanor Mund (Hester Swane) is honored to be part of bringing this striking show to life. She is a junior musical theatre & English major, having appeared in Messiah shows such as *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Denise), *Crimes of the Heart* (Meg), and *Silent Sky* (Annie Cannon), among others. Huge thanks to the cast, crew, and Dan for their hard work, as well as her friends and family for their unending support. Thank you and enjoy!

Ella Murray (Caroline Cassidy) is excited to be back on stage at Messiah. She has performed with theaters in the Lancaster/Lebanon area including Gretna Theatre as well as Servant Stage Company and Piercing Word. Over the summer she was in *The Marvelous Wonderettes* with Servant Stage Company where she performed in several venues across Lancaster County. Love and thanks to my parents, family, and friends for their encouragement and support.

Yanira Perez (Josie Kilbride) is a junior musical theatre major at Messiah. Her previous credits include *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Mousette), and the Shoeless Joe musical theatre cabarets. Yanira is beyond excited to be a part of this show and to have worked with such a wonderful cast. She would like to say thank you to all her friends and family who support her in the arts.

Nathan Perlis (Joseph Swane, U/S Carthage Kilbride) is a sophomore film and media arts major, and is eager to perform in his second show at Messiah University, having taken part in the one act play *Trifles* (Sheriff Henry Peters) in the spring. Some of his past productions include *Mamma Mia!* (Ensemble) and *The Theory of Relativity* (Paul). He is grateful for all the love and support from his family and friends, and for the production team's warm hospitality!

Anika Peterson (Waitress, U/S Caroline Cassidy/Mrs. Kilbride) is a first-year musical theatre major. She is excited to be making her Messiah debut in *By the Bog of Cats*. Her favorite past roles include *Catch Me if You Can* (Paula Abagnale) and *Mamma Mia* (Rosie Mulligan). She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued support in every role she plays. She is also grateful to the cast, crew, and directors for making her feel welcome.

Adahlee Schroeder (Catwoman) is a theatre and English double major. Some of her favorite past credits include *Foreign Gifts* (Raya), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Helene), and *Beauty and the Beast* (Eventyr). She is grateful to Dan for giving her this opportunity and to her friends and family for supporting her. A special thanks to God, the director, designers, and crew, without whom the show would most certainly not be the same.

Ashley Sheffe (Mrs. Kilbride) is a second-year theatre major. She is very excited to be bringing this story to life for her third performance on the Messiah stage. Highlights of her acting career include *Macbeth* (1st Witch), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Yvonne), and *Alabama Story* (Emily US/Coffee-cart Girl). She would like to thank her family, especially Emily, for being supportive, and the directive team for being amazing!

Ben Vanderlin (Carthage Kilbride) is a first-year musical theatre major. He is very excited to be a part of this performance on the Messiah stage. Highlights of his acting career include *Newsies* (Davey). He would like to thank his friends and family for their support and the directive team for this great opportunity.



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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

BY THE BOG OF CATS Written by Marina Carr, Directed by Daniel Inouye

Loosely based on Euripides' tragedy *Medea*, this is the prophetic tale of Hester Swane, an Irish Traveller, who attempts to come to terms with a lifetime of abandonment in a world where all whom she has loved have discarded her. Set on the bleak, ghostly landscape of the Bog of Cats, this provocative drama discloses one woman's courageous attempts to lay claim to that which is hers, as her world is torn in two. Hester's long-term lover, Carthage Kilbride, with whom she has a seven-year-old daughter, is selling her "down the river" for the promise of land and wealth through a marriage with the local big farmer's daughter. In the final moments of the action, we witness a woman provoked beyond the limits of human endurance. *By the Bog of Cats* is a furious, uncompromising tale of greed and betrayal, of murder and profound self-sacrifice.

Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 3-5 at 8 pm; Oct. 6 at 3 pm

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurley

Fall musical theatre cabaret

Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 12 at 8 pm; Oct.13 at 3 pm

TARTUFFE Written by Molière, Translation by Richard Wilbur, Directed by Ed Cohn

The story takes place in the home of the wealthy Orgon, where Tartuffe—a fraud and a pious imposter—has insinuated himself. He succeeds magnificently in winning the respect and devotion of the head of the house, and then tries to marry his daughter and seduce his wife and scrounge the deed to the property. He nearly gets away with it, but an emissary from King Louis XIV arrives in time to recover the property, free Monsieur Orgon, and haul Tartuffe off to jail. And so his duplicity is finally exposed and punished.

Miller Theater Nov. 14-16, 22-23 at 8 pm; Nov. 17 & 24 at 3 pm; *Nov. 21 at 10 am special performance

BLUE CHRISTMAS DANCE CONCERT 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. 21 at 7 pm

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 13- 14 at 8 pm

PETER RABBIT AND ME Written by Aurand Harris, Directed by Ed Cohn

Peter Rabbit and Me is a delightful dramatization of the beloved story of Peter Rabbit. Beatrix Potter, age 13, is a poor little rich girl secluded in her top-floor nursery. She creates her own excitement by inventing and illustrating stories about her pet animals. Beatrix transforms into Peter, her Governess becomes Peter's mother, and her stern Victorian father becomes Farmer McGregor. Here is a revealing and charming glimpse of Victorian society in contrast to the antics of the uninhibited animal world. *Peter Rabbit and Me* is filled with humor, adventure, colorful characters and all of the magic of children's theatre.

Poorman Black Box Theater Jan. 24-25 at 7 pm; Jan. 26 at 3 pm

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. 21 at 4 pm; Feb. 22 at 8 pm

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurley

Spring musical theatre cabaret

Poorman Black Box Theater March 1 at 8 pm; March 2 at 3 pm

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

Poorman Black Box Theater March 21-22 at 8 pm; April 24- 25 at 8 pm

ANYTHING GOES Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter, Book by Guy Bolton, P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay, and Russel Crouse (New Book by Timothy Crouse & Jacob Weidman, Directed by Daniel Inouye

When the S.S. American heads out to sea, etiquette and convention head out the portholes as two unlikely pairs set off on the course to true love - proving that sometimes destiny needs a little help from a crew of singing sailors, a comical disguise, and some good old-fashioned blackmail. This hilarious musical romp across the Atlantic, features Cole Porter's joyful score, including "I Get A Kick Out of You", "You're the Top" and the show-stopping "Anything Goes."

Miller Theater April 3-5, 11-12 at 8 pm; April 6 & 13 at 3 pm; *April 10 at 10:00 am special school performance

CULMINATION '25: 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 May 2 at 8 pm; May 3 at 2 pm