Coming Next:

GROSS INDECENCY - THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE by Moises Kaufman
Directed by Ricky Kimball, MFA Candidate
“Gross Indecency” draws from real life trial documents, newspaper accounts and writings of key players, following celebrated playwright Oscar Wilde and his fall from grace.
6 p.m. April 23, 24, 30, May 1
2 p.m. April 24, 25, May 1, 2

Everybody
by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Directed by KT Turner
March 5-14, 2021
Livestreamed Performances
For mature audiences.
Contains adult situations and language.
World Premiere produced by Signature Theatre, New York City (Paige Evans, Artistic Director; Erika Mallin, Executive Director; James Houghton, Founder)
“Everybody” is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF CLASS

Welcome to the Department of Theatre Arts, and thank you for attending the production! We’re incredibly proud to present EVERYBODY, directed by one of our stellar Master of Fine Arts students, KT Turner. This Pulitzer-nominated play was written by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, one of the great luminaries in the American theatre and a 2016 MacArthur fellow. The play itself explores the conditions of randomness and diversity and how we search for deeper meaning and values in our journey of life and death. These themes resonate deeply with the issues we find in today’s world and affirm the essential elements of our shared humanity. We hope you enjoy this magnificent performance, and we thank you for supporting the fine arts on our campus.

Sean Quinlan, Dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences

U of I Students Earn Top Awards for Theater Work

MOSCOW, Idaho — March 5, 2021 — Three University of Idaho theatre students were honored with top awards during the virtual Region 7 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival.

Senior Andrew Yoder, of Boise, won the National Award for Excellence in Sound Design in Region 7 for the third consecutive year for his work in U of I’s production of “The Moors.”

Master of Fine Arts candidate Brindle Brundage, of St. George, Utah, won three awards:
• the Barbizon National Award for Excellence in Scenic Design in Region 7 for her work on “The Revolutionists;”
• the Randy Lutz Allied Design & Technology Award in Region 7 for her work on “The Moors;” and
• the Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas Award in Region 7, which comes with a one-week internship at Stagecraft Institute of Las Vegas.

Junior Hannah Verdi, of Hayden, won the Regional Musical Theatre Scholarship and was named the Region 7 Open Jar Scholarship recipient, receiving a $600 scholarship to Open Jar, a New York City Broadway-integrated actor training program.

“I know I speak for all my colleagues in expressing our utter delight, pride and congratulations to our students who continue to dazzle and exceed our expectations,” said Robert Caisley, chair of the Department of Theatre Arts. “The recognition they received at this festival is not only a testament to their hard work, dedication and creative achievement, but also a signal affirmation of their standing in their respective fields within the community of their peers.”

Yoder and Brundage will have their work showcased online, will have a national response to their work and are eligible to be awarded more honors at the national level. Both also receive full registration for the United States Institute of Theatre Technology conference March 8-12. Additionally, Brundage has an opportunity to take master classes with Santa Fe Opera this summer.

The festival awards, presented during the group’s Region 7 Conference, are part of a national theatre program involving more than 18,000 students from colleges and universities across the country and has served as a catalyst in improving the quality of college theatre in the United States. Region 7 includes Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Alaska, Northern Nevada and Northern California.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I read this play at a very interesting time. It was last year, 2020, and I was dealing with a break-up, mental health issues, and physical illness.

I’d heard of the play, even seen it, and I am a fan of the playwright, so I picked it up. Immediately, I experienced a flurry of emotion. The play was hilarious, thought-provoking, melancholic, maddening, and beautiful. Suddenly, in my little pit of despair, my heart and mind opened to the notion that every person on Earth has their issues.

While my situation didn’t get any better, I felt a little more empathy toward those surrounding me. Why? Well, because any of the individuals I came into contact with could have something absolutely awful happening to them that day. Any of them could have been in the position the character of “Everybody” finds themselves in during the play.

Anybody could be Everybody. That was the first statement that came to mind when I prepared to present this play to the department. It’s led my heart and vision during this process. And I hope it sticks to you tonight.

“Everybody” includes some very hard-hitting themes, such as death, disappointment, loss, abandonment, and fear. However, these themes are countered by quick-paced comedic energy that eases the load and mildly calms the anxiety, reminding us that we are Everybody and that that’s okay.

Inside this program, you will find a poem titled “Death’s Whisper” written by David Harlen, who plays Death in this production. When you have a chance, please read through the piece and allow yourself to be moved by the text.

It’s said that there are only two constant things in life, death, and taxes. In seeing this play and reading this piece, I’m sure you will find that we all share so much more.

KT Turner, Director
MFA Directing Candidate

DRAMATURG’S MESSAGE

Welcome to our production of “Everybody,” Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ play about what it means to live, what it means to die, and the journey in between. “Everybody” is a modern adaptation of the fifteenth-century morality play “The Summoning of Everyman,” one of the earliest known plays in the English language. It was written at a time when war, famine, and pestilence were rife. The average lifespan—if a person survived childhood—was fifty years.

Morality plays offered meaning in God’s world and were used by the church for missionary work and education. The plays were noted for their transformative power based in the creation of personal memory, both sensed and experienced. The audience was left feeling as if they had attended the birth of Christ or the resurrection. They didn’t think they had truly been there, but they had a memory as if they had been—a lived experience.

In an interview, Jacobs-Jenkins explained that adaptation for him isn’t simply a matter of modernizing text: “For me, adaptation is about challenging the original play. I’m not translating it for an audience so much as actually trying to explore what this piece meant in its context and what it might mean now.” As a 2018 Pulitzer Prize finalist, “Everybody” offers sly and boisterous humor as it invites us on the inevitable journey required by Death’s summons.

Producing the script now in a world experiencing strife, famine, and a pandemic that prevents us from coming together as a community echoes the conditions of the original “Everyman” and brought the story home for our company.

“Everybody” uses a lottery system to assign roles for the majority of the actors echoing the happenstance of life and theatre. In theatre, no two performances are the same and in life, we may prepare for our big moments but when they happen, they can be different from what we anticipated and planned for. This is a central theme in “Everybody:” that in life, as in death, no one knows what will happen or when.

By bringing this classic play forward to modern day and modern sensibilities, BJJ asks us to look at the fragility and foibles of being human. What does it mean to live meaningfully and fully in our precarious and unpredictable existence? How do we find joy and acceptance?

We are excited for you to accompany us on this journey.

Ariana Burns, Dramaturg
CAST

Usher/God/Understanding......................... KALYSSA MONTOYA
Death............................................................ DAVID HARLAN**
Love............................................................ TANYA THOMPSON*
Time/Little Girl.......................................... CHLOE FORSBERG****
Somebody.................................................... PAYTON EDMONDS
Somebody.................................................. LAUREL JOY*
Somebody.................................................... LUKE MCGREEVY
Somebody.................................................. CARLY MCMINN*
Somebody.................................................... HANNAH VERDI
Somebody/Understudy................................. EMMA VON TILL
Understudy E ............................................. ANTHONY KIRBY
Dance Ensemble........................................ CYNTHIA BALL
Dance Ensemble.......................................... SHAWN HUNT
Dance Ensemble.......................................... KYLIE MORRIS
Dance Ensemble.......................................... TAYLOR TELFORD
Dance Ensemble......................................... VICTORIA ZENNER

ARTISTIC TEAM

Director..................................................... KT TURNER*
Scenic Designer.......................................... BRINDLE BRUNDAGE*
Costume Designer....................................... MICHELE L. DORMAIER*
Lighting Designer........................................ RIO SPIERING
Sound Designer & Grip................................. ANDREW YODER
Prop Master & Assistant Scenic Designer........ PAYTON EDMONDS
Stage Manager............................................ KEVIN RUSSELL
Dramaturg.................................................. ARIANA BURNS**
Videographer............................................. CHRISTIAN PANKOPF**
Choreographer............................................ VICTORIA ZENNER
Assistant Stage Manager............................. CYNTHIA BALL
Assistant Costume Designer....................... EMILY ROMANOWSKI
Technical Director...................................... MICHAEL BRANDT***
Costume Director........................................ GINGER SORENSEN***
Faculty Advisor.......................................... JESSE DREIKOSEN***

Carpenters

KYLIE MORRIS, SCOUT CHRISTENSEN, KARI WILSEY, HALEY ALFORD, EMMA BLONDA, EMILY ROMANOWSKI, EMMA RIACH, TUCKER HOLLAND, ATHENA NOLTA, ASHLEY GREEN, DESIREE HASTINGS

Stitchers

CAROLINE FRIAS*, LAUREL JOY*

*Work on “Everybody” helps fulfill degree requirements for MFA candidates.
** University of Idaho Alumni
***Department of Theatre Arts Faculty
****Guest Artist
**CAST BIOS**

**KALYSSA MONToya** (Usher/God/Understanding) is a second-year Bachelor of Fine Arts performance major from Emmett. She has been privileged to be a part of U of I’s “Drowning Ophelia” (Understudy/Ophelia), “Little Women” (Understudy/Clarissa), “The Moors” (A Moor-hen), “The Revolutionists” (Olympe de Gouges), and “A Christmas Carol” (Belle). She is so grateful for this opportunity to work with such an amazing cast and crew.

**DAVID HARLAN** (Death) is the founding artistic director of Moscow Art Theatre (Too) and a theater collaborator around the Palouse. Recent stage appearances include “A Christmas Carol,” “The Three Keys of Captain Hellfire” and “A Kind of Alaska” with the U of I Department of Theater Arts; and “The Pillowman,” “Harvey,” “The Odd Couple,” “Santaland Diaries” and “God of Carnage” with Moscow Art Theatre (Too). He received his MFA in playwriting and directing from U of I in 2010.

**TANYA THOMPSON** (Love) is a graduate student with a focus in performance. She hails from Maine and Southern California where she earned a degree in drama from the University of California, Irvine. Some of her favorite projects include: Marmee in “Little Women,” Sister Mary Patrick “Sister Act,” Cinderella’s Stepmother, “Into the Woods,” Pauline Kost “Cabaret,” Sarah Jane Moore “Assassins” and Adelaide “Guys and Dolls.” She wishes to thank her biological family for always being supportive in her pursuit of theatre and her chosen family for their unconditional love and creative encouragement.

**CHLOE FORSBERG** (Time/Little Girl) is excited to be part of this production of “Everybody.” She loves cats, her family, and theatre—not necessarily in that order. At the young age of nine, her stage credits include: “Alice in Wonderland,” “It’s a Wonderful Life,” “Winnie the Pooh,” “James and the Giant Peach,” “Babes in Toyland,” “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and “Aladdin.” She is currently writing a play she intends to direct herself.

**CARLY McMINN** (Somebody) is a second-year graduate student in directing. Originally from Atlanta, Carly received her Bachelor of Arts degree in theatre at Columbus State University. She directed “Drowning Ophelia” in 2019 and “The Revolutionists” in 2020 at U of I. She made her Hartung debut as Agatha in “The Moors” in spring 2020.

**HANNAH VERDI** (Somebody) is a third-year Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate in performance. Some notable roles include Jo March in “Little Women: The Musical,” Bluedell in “The Three Keys of Captain Hellfire” and Peter Quince in “A Midwinter Night’s Dream.” She is so honored to be a part of such a beautiful show and is excited for the world to see it!

**LUKE McGREGORY** (Somebody) is following a McGreevy tradition by studying theatre at the University of Idaho. Last fall, Luke played Young Scrooge in U of I’s “A Christmas Carol” and he is wildly excited to round out his freshman year by playing somebody in “Everybody.” He would like to dedicate this performance to his mother, Barbara Bohrer, who lived brave and loved free. Luke also recommends brewing tea 4-6 minutes for best results.

**LAUREL JOY** (Somebody) is a third-year Master of Fine Arts candidate and a regional Irene Ryan finalist. Some of her most recent stage credits include performances in “The Spoils,” “A Christmas Carol” (U of I), “How I Learned to Drive” (PCT), and “The Pillowman” (MATT). Laurel is a busy mother of four and thrilled to be sharing the stage with her daughter Chloe in this production of “Everybody.”

**PAYTON EDMONDS** (Somebody/Properties/Assistant Scenic Designer) is a busy student as a double-major in secondary education and theatre. This is Payton’s second production at U of I, he previously appeared as Gary in “This Random World.” He honors his fraternal brothers, his family, and his friends for keeping him safe and sane during this process.

**ANTHONY KIRBY** (Understudy E) is a third-year Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate. He transferred to U of I from North Idaho College in the fall, where he appeared in shows such as “Noises Off,” “SYM” and “These Shining Lives” and was a two-time Irene Ryan nominee. He made his U of I theatre debut earlier this year in “The Haven” and he is excited to be part of the community.

**EMMA VON TILL** (Somebody) is a fourth-year Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate at U of I. Her past credits include “A Christmas Carol,” “Little Women: The Musical” and “A Midwinter Night’s Dream.” She wants to thank her family and friends for their unwavering support.

**VICTORIA ZENNER** (Choreographer/Dance Ensemble) is from Meridian, and a senior graduating this spring with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre performance. Her acting credits include “Little Women” (Amy March), “Deep Calls” (Musician), “A Christmas Carol” (Christmas Past) and “Her Sister” (Lost).

**SHAWN HUNT** (Dance Ensemble) is grateful for the opportunity to work on “Everybody.” A Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate, he was most recently seen in “The Haven” and “A Christmas Carol.” Other credits include “Legally Blonde: The Musical,” “The 39 Steps” and “The Laramie Project.” You’ll see him next in Gross Indecency.” Shawn is a graduate of The Circle in the Square Theatre School. Thank you for your support of the arts.

**KYLIE MORRIS** (Dance Ensemble) is a freshman at the University of Idaho. Her acting credits include Columbia in “The Rocky Horror Show,” Dream Laur- rey in “Oklahoma!” and Margot Frank in “Yours, Anne.” She is working toward a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. She hopes you enjoy the show!

**TAYLOR TELFORD** (Dance Ensemble) is in her second year at U of I pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. Originally from Hailey, Idaho, she has appeared in the U of I productions “This Random World,” “Deep Calls,” “The Revolutionists” and “A Christmas Carol.”
ARTISTIC TEAM BIOs

KT TURNER (Director) is a second-year Master of Fine Arts directing candidate and has incorporated pedagogy and theatre historiography into her course of study. KT recently graced the U of I’s virtual stage as Marianne Angelle in the fall 2020 production of “The Revolutionists.” She also directed the spring 2020 production of “Deep Calls.”

KEVIN RUSSELL (Stage Manager) is a third-year electrical engineering student minoring in theatre design and technology. This is his debut production as stage manager with the U of I theatre department. In the past Kevin was technical director for Creative Theatre Experience in Olympia, WA as well as sound, lighting and film support for the U of I dance.

CYNTHIA BALL (Assistant Stage Manager/Dance Ensemble) is a fourth-year student in theater arts. Cynthia is very honored to be part of this production as an assistant stage manager and dancer. Previous performance credits in the department include “The Children’s Hour” by Lillian Hellman in 2018 and the directing student projects.

ARIANA BURNS (Dramaturg) is a writer, researcher, and an alumna with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in technical theatre and a Master of Arts degree in anthropology. She recently dramaturged “Happy Mess” and “This Random World.” Her play, “The Three Keys of Captain Hellfire” premiered at U of I in 2019. Ariana has worked at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Idaho Repertory Theatre, Shade of Difference, the Dread Admiral’s Sunshine Factory, and the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival.

BRINDLE BRUNDAE (Scenic Designer) is a second-year Master of Fine Arts candidate in scenic design. She is from Saint George, Utah, and received her Bachelor’s Degree in scenic design from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. Her credits include being the scenic designer for both “Little Women the Musical” and “The Revolutionists” and scenic charge artist for “The Moors” at U of I.

RIO SPIERING (Lighting Designer) is a second-year student minoring in theater technology and design. This is Rio’s first time as a crew-member in a U of I theater production and as a lighting designer. Previous experience in theater includes backstage crew on Skyview High School’s production of “Macbeth” and “Once Upon a Mattress.”

MICHELE L. DORMAIDER (Costume Designer) is a third-year Master of Fine Arts distance costume design student at U of I, graduating in May 2021, and the resident costume designer for the School of Theatre at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, LA. Michele has a bachelor’s degree from the University of South Dakota and a master’s degree from Louisiana Tech University, with a focus on Costume Design and Arts Administration and Management. Besides designing costumes, Michele pursues research and has presented at national conferences, and has written about “The Evolution of Costume in Ballet,” “The Influence of the East on Western Ballet Costume in the Early Twentieth Century,” “The History of Mardi Gras Royalty Costumes of the LGBTQ+ Community in New Orleans” and more.

EMILY ROMANOWSKI (Assistant Costume Designer) is a first-year student, pursuing her bachelor’s degree in theatre arts and in apparel, textiles, and design. Some of her recent credits include assistant costume designer for “The Revolutionists” and the role of Ms. Harvey in “Happy Mess” at U of I. Emily is honored to work with such a beautiful show and wonderful cast!

ANDREW YODER (Sound Designer/Grip) is a fourth-year Bachelor of Fine Arts candidate from Boise. “Everybody” marks Yoder’s eighth and final show at U of I. He is known for his work on “Drowning Ophelia,” “Up Chimacum Creek,” “True West” and “A Kind of Alaska.” He is a two-time national award-winning sound designer. He would like to thank director KT Turner for giving him the chance to help create this incredible show.

CHRISTIAN PANKOPF (Videographer) is a graduate of U of I’s Department of Film and Television Studies as well as the Department of Theatre Arts. His previous work includes an assistant director position for “The Revolutionists” as well as videography for “A Christmas Carol.” He is excited to be back and working with his friends and peers.
Death’s Whisper
by David Harlan

Close your eyes.
Or, don’t.
It doesn’t matter.
I can close your eyes for you,
Remember.

Good. Now. Remember, now, that time.
That. Time.
Come now. I insist.
Breathe…

Good. Now,
Remember. That. Time.
That moment. That dark.

Yeeessss. That time.

Good. Now,
Feel, again, that iron band around your ribs.
Feel, again, that burning in your head.
Feel, again, that tearing in your heart.
Feel, again, that teetering on the edge.

Good. Now. Remember, now, your toes on the edge of that abyss.
See, again, the dark. Smell, again, that dark.

Good. Now. Remember, now, that pull of that dark, a chain anchored, barbed hooks sunk deep into your amygdala, reeling you, forehead-first into that abyss.
Do you feel it, again? Those stinging hooks. That inexorable pull.

That was me. Remember?

Good. Now. Remember, now, that release, that relief when the barbs… vanished? That upward, backward pressure on your forehead. Gentle as a mother’s kiss. Remember? That, too, was me.


Breathe.

See.

“See? Now let’s go!”
The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

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.

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