



UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
DRAMA

Canaan

by Micah Ariel Watson

April 26 & 28 @ 8pm

April 29 @ noon & 4pm

Seven Short Plays
and Devised Works

April 27 @ 8pm

April 28 @ 2pm

**New
Works
Festival**

DEPARTMENT OF
DRAMA
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

New Works Festival

Produced by **Dave Dalton and Doug Grissom**

Production Stage Management by **Rawda Fawaz and Kylan Luna**

Lighting Design by **Julie Briski**

Sound Design by **Curtis Pettit**

Technical Direction and Scenic Design by **JD Stallings**

A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCERS

Welcome to our second annual New Works Festival, featuring original works written and directed by Department of Drama students. Last year's festival proved an exciting and invigorating event for both our audience and students. For a playwright, the opportunity to work collaboratively with directors, actors, designers and crew to bring one of their works to life is often a transformative experience. The playwright's initial work is done in solitude; but this work remains by definition unfinished. As a playwright friend once told me: the playwright doesn't write text; the playwright writes behavior for actors and environment for designers. So without the work of directors, actors and designers, the playwright's work doesn't truly exist at all.

For directors, there were two types of opportunities: working with playwrights or devising their own plays. Working with a playwright is an important skill for a director to develop, and this festival provides the opportunity for the director to get valuable feedback on how their choices are measuring up to the playwright's expectations. Devising can describe a number of approaches to creating new work in which the director has direct input on the creation of the play itself. This festival provided student directors with the opportunity for three different approaches to the creation of new works including improvisation and experimentation with both form and content.

This year, we are producing two "bills" of play, playing on alternate days and times, owing to the diversity and quality of original work generated this year. Our evening of short plays features innovative plays and devised works giving you a buffet of emotions, moods, styles, characters and situations that will surprise, entertain and move you.

Our full-length play, *Canaan*, is a rich and heartfelt exploration of a pivotal time and place in American history and culture. It is also, deservedly, a winner

of the Kennedy Center College Theatre Festival's National Undergraduate Playwriting Award for 2018. We are very proud to mount the premiere production of Micah Ariel Watson's powerful play.

For the playwrights, directors, actors, designers, and crew the final component in the creation of their new work is **you**. Thank you for joining us and playing the essential role of the audience for the New Works Festival. Your presence here is a valuable part of the artistic process, and we thank you for it.

Doug Grissom and Dave Dalton, co-producers

The New Works Festival is co-sponsored by the Department of Drama and by an Arts Enhancement Grant from the Office of the Provost and the Vice Provost of the Arts.

***Canaan* performs on April 26, 28 & 29**

Short Plays and Devised Works perform on April 27 & 28

Order of Performance of Short Plays and Devised Works

Can't Stay Here by Kate Doughty
Eve, devised by Ali Cheraghpour
Locked/Loaded, devised by Jessica Harris
Every Little Soul by Christine McLennan

15-minute Intermission

White Zinfandel by Savannah Hard
I.D., devised by Tiara Sparrow
Old Flame by Christine McLennan

Canaan

By **Micah Ariel Watson**

Directed by **Kevin Minor**

Production Stage Management by **Rawda Fawaz**

Costume Design by **Jessica Utz**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Eddie	Roberto Thomas
Lisa	Branika Scott
Camille	Taylor Lamb
Louie.....	Jordan Maia
Nehemiah	James Bland
Joe.....	Roger Dean
Mr. Taylor.....	Terrance Maynard
Ms. Wilma.....	Madison Tatum

Canaan will be performed with one 15-minute intermission.

WHO'S WHO IN *Canaan*

James Bland (Graduate Student, Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education)

Roger T. Dean (2nd Year J.D. Law) *Libel 109: Libel's Day Off*, *Libel 110: Libel's Angels* (UVA Law)

Taylor Lamb (4th Year English, Drama minor) *P3M5 The Plurality of Privacy in Five-Minute Plays*, *Wake Up Music!*, *Black Monologues* (UVA Drama); *Vagina Monologues* (Spectrum Theatre); *Grounds for Discussion* (ONSP)

Jordan Maia (4th Year Drama) *Black Monologues*, *Blood Wedding*, *Wake Up Music!*, *Seven Guitars* (UVA Drama); A cappella singing with Academical Village People

Terrance Maynard (1st Year Graduate Student, Curry School).

Kevin Minor (2nd Year M.F.A. Acting): *Wake Up Music* (Director, UVA Drama), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Virginia Repertory Theatre), *Seven Guitars* (UVA Drama), *Welcome to Fear City* (CATF)

Rawda Fawaz (4th Year Political and Social Thought, African American Studies Minor) *The Tempest* (Shakespeare on the Lawn); *for colored girls who considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* (Paul Robeson Players); *The Black Monologues* (UVA Drama)

Branika Scott (4th Year Drama) *The Black Monologues* 2015 and 2016 (UVA Drama), *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* (Paul Robeson Players), *Seven Guitars* (UVA Drama)

Madison Tatum (4th Year Psychology, Latin minor) *Black Monologues* 2015 and 2017, *Seven Guitars* (UVA Drama), *for colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf* (Paul Robeson Players)

Roberto Thomas (4th Year Foreign Affairs, Drama minor) *Wake Up Music!*, *Black Monologues*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* (UVA Drama), *Welcome to Thebes* (Spectrum Theater), *The Pride* (Labshorts)

Micah Ariel Watson is a fourth year Drama and African-American Studies Distinguished Major, filmmaker, and the two-time producer and director of *The Black Monologues*. Her work seeks to affirm the truth that Black people are made in the image of God. In the spring of 2017, Micah's play *Wake Up Music!* was a part of the New Works Festival and the winner of the Clay E. Delauney Memorial Award. Recently, Micah received the Kennedy Center Undergraduate Playwriting Award for *Canaan* and is a finalist for the KCACTF Gary Garrison 10-Minute Play Award for *Will Be Live*. She will continue pursuing a career as a playwright and screenwriter by attending New York University Tisch School of the Arts in the fall.

Seven Short Plays and Devised Works

Can't Stay Here

By **Kate Doughty**

Directed by **Anirwin Sridhar**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Liz.....	Payton Moledor
Party Drunk.....	Tess Driscoll
Sad Drunk	Tori Kotsen
Angry Drunk.....	Anna Parnell
Ben	Charles Hurt

WHO'S WHO IN *Can't Stay Here*

Kate Doughty is a fourth year double major in Creative Writing and Psychology. When she's not writing plays, you can find her singing with the Harmonious Hoos, playing trombone in the Cavalier Marching Band, or volunteering with Alpha Phi Omega.

Tess Driscoll (2nd Year Arts Administration) *Pride and Prejudice* (Spectrum Theatre), *The Addams Family* (First Year Players)

Charles Hurt (1st Year Undeclared)

Payton Moledor (1st Year Undeclared): *Urinetown*, *WE ARE PUSSY RIOT OR EVERYTHING IS P.R.* (UVA Drama); *Company* (Spectrum Theatre); *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Mill Mountain Theatre)

Anna Parnell (1st Year Undeclared) *WE ARE PUSSY RIOT OR EVERYTHING IS P.R.* (UVA Drama)

Anirwin Sridhar (3rd Year, Cognitive Science)

Eve

Devised and Directed by **Ali Cheraghpour**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Evelyn.....	Maille-Rose Smith
Nyx.....	Mia Shaker
Orpheus.....	Jess Miller

WHO'S WHO IN *Eve*

Ali Cheraghpour (اچراغپور علی) is a fourth year Computer Science major with a Drama major at heart and President of UVA's Shakespeare on the Lawn (SotL) this past academic year. He has always wanted to direct plays since he was in High School. He directed *The Importance of Being Earnest* for SotL last spring. He also wrote an original screenplay that got picked up as a short film by LabShorts titled *My Biggest Fear* as a response to the Muslim Travel Ban and the American political climate. *Eve* has been a fulfilling experience for him and he is thankful for the opportunity to share this story.

Jess Miller (2nd Year English and Media Studies) *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Tempest* (SotL)

Mia Shaker (1st Year Computer Science) *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Julius Caesar* (SotL)

Maille-Rose Smith (1st Year Undeclared) Music Library Series (UVA Drama), *Julius Caesar*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (SotL), *Rausch* (LabShorts)

Locked/Loaded

Devised and Directed by **Jessica Harris**

Michael.....	Nathan John
Veronica.....	Victoria Hodge
Paul.....	Robby Hoffman
Mary.....	Catharine Reagan

WHO'S WHO IN *Locked/Loaded*

Jessica Harris is a second year pursuing an Echols Interdisciplinary Degree in Drama, Arts Administration, and Youth and Social Innovation. Thrilled to be involved in the New Works Festival, Jessica most recently directed the Black Monologues 2017, *Dancing with Myself* at Four County Players, and currently runs a local youth theater organization Empowered Players. When not directing or teaching, Jessica is an Arts Grounds Guide and is on the executive board for Kids Acting Out. This is Jessica's first devised play performed at the University, and she is so grateful for all of the support she has received on this project!

Victoria Hodge (1st Year Undeclared) *Black Monologues* 2017 (UVA Drama)

Robert Hoffman (3rd Year Finance and Marketing) *Love's A Bitch* (UVA Drama)

Nathan John

Catharine Reagan (2nd Year Sociology)

Every Little Soul

By **Christine McLennan**
Directed by **Emily Schmid**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

MamaKate Monaghan
Rosie Tess Driscoll

WHO'S WHO IN *Every Little Soul*

Tess Driscoll (2nd Year Arts Administration) *Pride and Prejudice* (Spectrum Theatre), *The Addams Family* (First Year Players).

Christine McLennan: Okay here's what I want in my bio. You listening? Biographer: Yep. Christine McLennan: First of all I want it to be the next great American play. Biographer: You want your bio to be... Christine McLennan: Yes, I want anyone reading it to be weeping by the end. Biographer: I'll see what I can do— Christine McLennan: Mention my humble origin story, born in a laundromat, always cast as a tree in school plays yada yada. Should probably mention all the boring stuff, fourth year, Drama and English. Ooh! Can I be a freelance firefighter? Biographer: Uh, are you a freelance firefighter? Christine McLennan: No, but I want to be. Biographer: Right. Uh, anything else I should add? Christine McLennan: There should be a twist ending. Biographer: Like what? Christine McLennan: Oh, I know, what if the biographer was really Christine McLennan all along? Biographer: You just read my mind. Because we are literally the same person and have the same mind. Christine McLennan: Wow man. That's deep. I'm getting weepy just thinking about it.

Kate Monaghan (Community Scholar) *P3M5 The Plurality of Privacy In Five-Minute Plays*, *Our Town*, *The Rimers of Eldritch*, *Wonderful Town*, *Nine Parts Of Desire* (UVA Drama); *Shear Madness*, *My Fair Lady*, *On Golden Pond* (Heritage Theatre Festival); *August Osage County*, *Grey Gardens*, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, (Live Arts); *Blithe Spirit*, (Four County Players)

Emily Schmid (3rd Year Interdisciplinary Arts Administration)

White Zinfandel

By **Savannah Hard**

Directed by **Michael Miranda**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mom.....	Yvonne Nguyen
Dad.....	Jakob Cansler
Synthia.....	Maille-Rose Smith
Jonah	Kyle Clark
Kathy	Rachel Meierovich
Brianna	Brianna Cabrera

WHO'S WHO IN *White Zinfandel*

Brianna Cabrera (4th Year Sociology) *Urinetown* (UVA Drama), *Company* (Spectrum), *Godspell* (FYP)

Jakob Cansler (1st Year Drama and Foreign Affairs, Deaf Studies Minor)

Kyle Clark (1st Year Undeclared) *P3M5 - The Plurality of Privacy Project in Five Minute Plays*, A Night of Short Plays in the Music Library, *Urinetown* (UVA Drama).

Savannah Hard discovered her love for playwriting last semester with Doug's class. He encouraged her to develop her short piece "Eggs" to be preformed in the music library exposition. Prior to that, she has focused on singing and acting, her most recent show in Spectrum's *Company* as Joanne. She just finished assistant stage-managing *Urinetown* and is excited for more time to write. In the time she isn't writing you can find her making friends with strangers at Cookout.

Rachel Meierovich (1st Year Statistics, Econometrics Concentration) *Two Gentleman of Verona*, *Julius Caesar* (SotL)

Michael Miranda: (2nd year M.F.A. Acting) *Blood Wedding*, *Love's a Bitch* (UVA Drama), *Ken Ludwig's Baskerville* (HTF), *Shakespeare in Love* (VaRep), *NCIS-LA* (CBS), *My Name is Earl* (NBC), *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest*.

Yvonne Nguyen (2nd Year English Drama), *The Second Law* (Spectrum)

Maille-Rose Smith (1st Year Undeclared) Music Library Series (UVA Drama), *Julius Caesar*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (SotL), *Rausch* (LabShorts)

I.D.

Devised and Directed by **Tiara Sparrow**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Tiara Raeven Mataya

WHO'S WHO IN I.D.

Raeven Mataya (1st Year Undeclared) *Dear Diary: WTF?!* (Regent's University Drama Society), *40th and State* (Micah Watson)

Tiara Sparrow is a third year Drama and Studio Arts double major. She was first exposed to playwriting by professor Doug Grissom's intro course at the University of Virginia. Since then, she has been working on small devised pieces with the Paul Robeson Players Troupe, an independent student-run Revolutionary Theatre Organization that is grounded in the roots of African and African-American theater traditions, where she is an actress and active participant in devising works. When she is not focused on performing and collaborating, she loves to shoot and direct short experimental films and write poetry in her alone time. This is the first staged show she will be directing at UVA. She hopes to continue with her involvement in the University of Virginia's theatre community and hopes to make work that underscores the truth, soul, and humanity in her characters.

Old Flame

By **Christine McLennan**

Directed by **Tori Meyer**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Octavia Mary Ann Neale
Vita Kate Monaghan
Cassia Hannah Thompson
Meg Payton Moledor
Augusta Brianna Cabrera
Anthony Charles Hurt

WHO'S WHO IN Old Flame

Brianna Cabrera (4th Year Sociology) *Urinetown* (UVA Drama), *Company* (Spectrum), *Godspell* (FYP)

Charles Hurt (1st Year Undeclared)

Christine McLennan: Okay here's what I want in my bio. You listening? Biographer: Yep. Christine McLennan: First of all I want it to be the next great American play. Biographer: You want your bio to be... Christine McLennan: Yes, I want anyone reading it to be weeping by the end. Biographer: I'll see

what I can do-- Christine McLennan: Mention my humble origin story, born in a laundromat, always cast as a tree in school plays yada yada. Should probably mention all the boring stuff, fourth year, Drama and English. Ooh! Can I be a freelance firefighter? Biographer: Uh, are you a freelance firefighter? Christine McLennan: No, but I want to be. Biographer: Right. Uh, anything else I should add? Christine McLennan: There should be a twist ending. Biographer: Like what? Christine McLennan: Oh, I know, what if the biographer was really Christine McLennan all along? Biographer: You just read my mind. Because we are literally the same person and have the same mind. Christine McLennan: Wow man. That's deep. I'm getting weepy just thinking about it.

Tori Meyer (3rd Year Drama)

Payton Moledor (1st Year Undeclared): *Urinetown, WE ARE PUSSY RIOT OR EVERYTHING IS P.R.* (UVA Drama); *Company* (Spectrum Theatre); *Willy Wonka Jr.* (Mill Mountain Theatre).

Kate Monaghan (Community Scholar) *The Plurality of Privacy in Five-Minute Plays, Our Town, The Rimers of Eldritch, Wonderful Town, Nine Parts Of Desire* (UVA Drama); *Shear Madness, My Fair Lady, On Golden Pond* (HTF); *August Osage County, Grey Gardens, To Kill A Mockingbird*, (Live Arts); *Blithe Spirit*, (Four County Players)

Mary Ann Neale (1st Year Undeclared) *WE ARE PUSSY RIOT OR EVERYTHING IS P.R.* (UVA Drama), *Just Desserts* (Lab Shorts)

Hannah Thompson (1st Year Music) *Urinetown* (UVA Drama).

WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

Julie Briski (1st year M.F.A. Lighting Design)

Dave Dalton (Assistant Professor, Acting & Directing): Dave is a director and adaptor of classic texts. His pro-wrestling-inspired adaptation of Wagner's *Ring Cycle* operas was selected a New York Times Critics' Pick, and his playful adaptation of Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore* was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Revival of a Musical. His work has been seen in New York at The Bushwick Starr, Incubator Arts Project, PS 122, and The Duke on 42nd Street. He has also directed productions at universities throughout the northeast including University of Connecticut, Brooklyn College, Barnard College, and Johns Hopkins University. Dave recently directed *Blood Wedding* and the emo rock musical *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* at UVA Drama. He has a M.F.A. in Directing from Columbia University and is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

Doug Grissom is an Associate Professor of the Department of Drama and the head of the playwriting program. His plays have been produced at many venues around the country, and *Deep Down* and *Elvis People* were produced Off-Broadway and subsequently performed at various regional theatres. His educational theatre piece on acquaintance rape, *But I Said No* (co-written

with Margaret Baldwin), has toured extensively on college campuses around the country. Recent directing credits at UVA include *The New Works Festival* (2017), *The Arctic Circle (with a recipe for Swedish Pancakes)*, *The Rimers of Eldritch* and *Museum*.

Kylan Luna (3rd Year Drama)

Curtis Pettit (4th Year Music)

JD Stallings (2nd Year M.F.A. Scenic Design and Technical Direction)
Comedy of Errors, Mr. Burns, New Works 2017, Seven Guitars, Love's a Bitch
(UVA Drama)

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Management and Rehearsal Staff

Production Coordinator &

Stage Management Faculty AdvisorCaitlin McLeod

Scenic

Scenic Shop Foreman Chris Rybitski

Technical Direction Faculty Advisor Steven Warner

Scene Shop Assistants..... Casey Horton, Joe Karaki, Danton Wein

Carpenters..... Students of DRAM 2230

Paint

Scenic Charge Batul Rizvi

Scenic Artists/Painters Matthew Kornegay, Heidi Waldenmaier

Properties

Prop Master Sam Flippo

Assistant Prop Master Roberto Thomas

Prop Assistants..... Reilly Walker, David Willis

Costumes

Costume Design Faculty AdvisorGweneth West

Costume Technology Faculty Advisor..... Marcy Linton

Costume Shop Manager..... Dorothy Smith

Shop AssistantsLisa Chen, Taylor Parsons, Katie Rogers

Wardrobe Brittany Bolick

Lighting

Lighting Design Faculty Advisor.....R. Lee Kennedy

Master Electrician Justin Poruban

Electricians..... Olivia Cosby, Lauren Duffie, Madeline Engel,

Peyton Evans, Maya Falicov, Patricia Gallegos, Steven Johnson,

Louisses Luo, Victoria Meyer, Brian Morris, Pepper Nagle,

George Pernick, Shayaan Rasul

Light Board Operator..... Casey Horton

Sound

Sound Design Faculty Advisor Michael Rasbury
Sound Engineer Wren Curtis
Sound Board Operator..... Kristin Barrett

Administration

Drama Department Chair Colleen Kelly
Dept. Technical Director/Op’s Manager..... Steven Warner
Business Manager James Scales
Assistant Business Manager..... Judy McPeak
Drama Administrative Staff..... Theresa Lamb
Publicity Manager..... Maelisa Singer

Box Office

UVA Arts Box Office Manager Andrew Burnett
Arts Box Office Staff..... Christopher Beck, Gaby Boissoneau,
Christen Bolton, Michaela Campbell, Luc Cianfarani,
Claire Corkish, Mariana Forero, Megan Gallagher, Shayaan Rasul

Front of House

House Managers Brian Murray, Zoe Rosenbaum
Concessions Managers Brian Murray, Jasmine Lecky,
Caitland Winsett, Mattie Wiseman



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KCACTF is part of JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy, inspired by five enduring ideals often ascribed to JFK: Courage, Freedom, Justice, Service, and Gratitude. Support for JFKC: A Centennial Celebration of John F. Kennedy is provided by Ambassador Elizabeth Bagley, Chevron, the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation, and Target.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President’s Advisory Committee on the 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 1,300 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.