

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
**DRAMA**

2019/20 SEASON



# The New Works Festival

Doug Grissom and Dave Dalton, Producers

Helms Theatre

8 PM | February 27, 28, 29  
& March 3, 4, 5, 2020



 UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA  
**DRAMA**

presents

## **The New Works Festival**

Produced by **Dave Dalton and Doug Grissom**

Scenic Design by **Batul Rizvi**

Lighting Design by **Julie Briski**

Digital Media Design by **Andrew Carluccio**

Sound Design by **James Nicholas**

### **A NOTE FROM THE PRODUCERS**

Welcome to our fourth annual New Works Festival, featuring original works written and directed by Department of Drama 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 us: the playwright doesn't write text; the playwright writes behavior for actors and environments for designers. So, without the work of directors, actors, designers, stage managers, and technicians the playwright's work doesn't really exist.

For a director, working with a playwright is a wonderful opportunity to support a new play as it develops. Four directors have collaborated with the writers, actors, and designers to stage these plays, to find creativity within limitations, and to build four very different worlds, including a cab in New York, a racial divide in the workplace, a first date with two unwelcome participants, and a child's imagination, complete with bear.

Additionally, one play you'll see tonight, Izzy Ullman's *The Art of Being an OK Person*, has been chosen as a regional finalist in the playwriting competition of the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival and will compete for the national prize this March at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

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 for the Arts.**

## ORDER OF PERFORMANCE

*Door Knock*  
*Child's Play, or The Bear*  
*Secretaries*

15-minute intermission

*The Art of Being an OK Person*

### ***Door Knock***

By **Caky Winsett**

Directed by **Fiona O'Reilly Sanchez**

Production Stage Management by **Ariana Pettis**

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

Boy ..... Ryder Sadler  
Greg..... Reed Foster  
Girl ..... Rainah Gregory  
Katherine..... Maille-Rose Smith

### WHO'S WHO IN *Door Knock*

**Reed Foster** (2nd Year Computer Science): *She Kills Monsters* (UVA Drama)

**Rainah Gregory** (2nd Year Undeclared, American Sign Language Minor)

*DAFT, Tough Love* (American Musical & Dramatic Academy, NY)

**Fiona O'Reilly Sanchez** (3rd Year History & Drama)

**Ariana Pettis** (3rd Year Drama & English)

**Ryder Sadler** (3rd Year Mechanical Engineering): *She Kills Monsters, Play It Cool* (UVA Drama)

**Maille-Rose Smith** (3rd Year English & Drama, Psychology minor): New Works Festival 2019, *In an East German Living Room, Music Library Series, Document It.* (UVA Drama); "The Art of Fugue" (UVA Overcranked Film Festival), "Rausch" (LabShorts), *Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Two Gentlemen of Verona* (Shakespeare on the Lawn), *A View from the Bridge* (Spectrum).

**Caky Winsett** is a fourth-year majoring in English and Media Studies and minoring in Drama. She has been writing short stories since middle school but did not discover playwriting until coming to UVA. She is a house/concessions manager and the current social media coordinator for the UVA Drama Department, and the most recent social media coordinator for Heritage Theatre Festival.

# *Child's Play, or The Bear*

By **Jess Miller**

Directed by **Rachel Clark**

Production Stage Management by **Myles Spadaccini**

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

the woman . . . . . Halle Wine  
the man . . . . . Javier Perez

### WHO'S WHO IN *Child's Play, or The Bear*

**Rachel Clark** (4th Year Commerce): *Play in a Day* (UVA Drama), *R&J* (SotL)

**Jess Miller** is a fourth-year English and Media Studies double major and French minor. He has been writing plays since his first year at UVA and is thrilled to finally be getting some appreciation around here. He has also acted in productions with Shakespeare on the Lawn and UVA Drama, and plays tuba in the Cavalier Marching Band. Check out his radio drama podcast, "Erasmus Dagger" on Spotify! Love and thanks to Mom, Dad, and Thomas.

**Javier Perez** (1st Year Undeclared): *How We Got On* (Paul Robeson Players)

**Myles Spadaccini**

**Halle Wine** (4th Year Systems Engineering, Applied Mathematics minor)

## *Secretaries*

By **Elizabeth Bangura**

Directed by **Ash Giddings**

Production Stage Management by **Myles Spadaccini**

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Stephanie . . . . . Tanaka Muvavarirwa  
Jasmine . . . . . Haeli Knox

### WHO'S WHO IN *Secretaries*

**Elizabeth Bangura** is a fourth-year Creative Writing and Media Studies double major. Though this is her first play to be produced, she has been writing and involved with theater her entire life. She previously served as Dramaturg for the 2019 Black Monologues and currently hosts a podcast called "Speaking in Hues" for the Maxine Plazter Lynn Women's Center. Through art and media, she hopes to continue to work on many projects that elevate the otherwise silenced voices of Black experiences.

**Ash Giddings** (4th Year Media Studies, Film concentration)

**Haeli Knox** (1st Year Undeclared)

**Tanaka Muvavarirwa** (2nd Year English): *Black People vs. Amerikkka* (UVA Drama DDI Series); *Globalwarmingppt* (Virginia Players Lab Series); *How We Got On* (Paul Robeson Players); *Macbeth* (SotL)

**Myles Spadaccini**

# *The Art of Being an OK Person*

By **Isabella Ullmann**

Directed by **Mj Smith**

Production Stage Management by **Ariana Pettis**

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

Mackenzie	Casey Breneman
Belen	Karen Zipor
Ryder	Zachary Gorman
Jason	Matthew Oley
Olivia	Haden Cunningham
Officer	Brody McDevitt
Gloria	Olivia Morrison

## WHO'S WHO IN *The Art of Being an OK Person*

**Casey Breneman** (BA English & Spanish) *She Kills Monsters*, New Works Festival - *Play it Cool*, Play-in-a-Day (UVA Drama); *The Addams Family*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (First Year Players); *Room 206* (Overcranked); *Voices in the Wind* (Anabasis Film)

**Haden Cunningham** (2nd Year English)

**Zachary Gorman** (4th Year Foreign Affairs)

**Brody McDevitt**

**Olivia Morrison** (2nd Year Foreign Affairs and Chinese), *Stick Fly* (UVA Drama)

**Matthew Oley** (2nd Year Biology)

**Ariana Pettis** (See *Door Knock*)

**Mj Smith** (2nd Year Drama, ASL Minor)

**Isabella Ullmann** is a third-year Arts Administration major with disciplines in Drama and Media Studies. Last year, her 10-minute play *Don't Question It* was a regional winner for the Kennedy Center Annual College Theater Festival's short minute play award. This past January, *The Art of Being an OK Person* was a regional winner for the same competition, and is currently being considered for the national festival in April. Isabella is a Miller Arts Scholar, the co-founder of Virginia Playwrights, and a previous executive member on Virginia Players. She is also interested in film, and is currently directing a short film she wrote for the *Overcranked* screenwriting class.

**Karen Zipor** (2nd Year Drama & Computer Science): *She Kills Monsters* (UVA Drama), *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Into the Woods* (FYP)

## WHO'S WHO IN THE NEW WORKS FESTIVAL

**Julie Briski** (3rd Year M.F.A. Lighting Design) *The Wolves, Canaan*, New Works Festival 2018, Fall Dance 2017, Spring Dance 2018 (UVA Drama)

**Andrew Carluccio** (4th Year Computer Science and Drama): *She Kills Monsters* (UVA Drama), *Newsies* (Saint Bernadette Summer Theatre), *Seussical* (Our Lady Queen of Peace Theatre Program), *OneMic: An Evening of Storytelling*, *Palki: A Cinematic Stage Drama* (Kalpana Performing Arts Group)

**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 42<sup>nd</sup> Street. For the Department of Drama his recent productions include *Lungs*, *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Love's a Bitch*, and *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson*. Dave has a MFA 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 (and a recipe for Swedish Pancakes)*, *The Rimers of Eldritch* and *Museum*. In the past year, Doug wrote and directed *In a German Living Room*, a theatre event commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall, and co-wrote and directed the podcast *A Perfectly Circular Rock*, produced by the Drama Department and WTJU.

**James Nicholas** (1st Year M.F.A. Technical Direction): *Urinetown*, *The Addams Family* (Theatre VCU); *Rock of Ages*, *Legally Blonde* (McLeod Summer Playhouse)

**Batul Rizvi** (Lecturer) is a scenic designer. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts with a BFA in Scenic Design and worked as the Entertainment and Production Designer for Busch Gardens, Williamsburg. She has her MFA from the University of Virginia. She has also worked at the Heritage Theatre Festival, Pacific Conservatory for the Performing Arts, Totem Pole Playhouse, and the Arts Center of Coastal Carolina.

## PRODUCTION STAFF

### **Stage Management and Rehearsal Staff**

Stage Management Faculty Advisor . . . . . Caitlin McLeod

### **Scenic & Technical Direction**

Technical Direction Faculty Advisor . . . . . Steven Warner

### **Properties**

Prop Master . . . . . Sam Flippo

### **Costumes**

Costume Design & Technology Faculty Advisor . . . . . Marcy Linton

Costume Shop Manager. . . . . Sarah Bryan

### **Lighting**

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

Light Board Operator. . . . . Liz Barr

### **Sound & Digital Media**

Sound Design Faculty Advisor. . . . . Michael Rasbury

Sound Board Operator. . . . . Myra Bailey

Digital Media Engineer . . . . . Andrew Carluccio

Assistant Digital Media Designers & Engineers. . . Students of DRAM 2830

Digital Media Design Faculty Advisors . . . . . Eammon Farrell, Mona Kasra

Projection Board Operator. . . . . Carolyn Schaumburg

### **Administration**

Drama Department Chair . . . . . Richard Will

Department Artistic Director. . . . . Marianne Kubik

Department Technical Director. . . . . Christopher Rybitski

Business Manager . . . . . James Scales

Assistant Business Manager . . . . . Judy McPeak

Drama Administrative Staff. . . . . Theresa Lamb

### **Box Office**

Interim UVA Arts Box Office Manager . . . . . Matthew Levenson

Arts Box Office Staff . . . . . Renat Abazov, Brandon Bolick,

Christen Bolton, Morgan Booth, Elizabeth Chung,

Spencer Harrell, Serhii Maltsev, Meghan Morris, Zola Price,

Lorena Vera, George Villacis, Morgan Waddy

### **Front of House & Concessions Managers**

Willow Cosenza, Fatim Diallo, Jared O'Brien, Kayleigh Pelkey, Caky Winsett



# The Kennedy Center

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein.***

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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.