Welcome to Utah State Theatre and the Department of Theatre Arts. We have an astonishingly varied season for you this year, something for every age and all tastes. How we choose the season is something our audiences ask, and the faculty agonize over. In fact, we are currently in the process of determining next year’s season. There are thousands of plays out there – how do we choose? Clearly, meeting the educational needs of our performance, education and design students is paramount, and this involves offering range in terms of period, genre and style. With most of our actors in the 19-24-year-old age group, it also behooves us to choose plays with mostly younger characters. Primarily, we are looking for plays that speak to the students (in terms of their lived experience) or that contribute to their understanding of the range of human behaviors, passions and aspirations. We are looking for well-crafted inspiring plays. A piece worth our joint efforts to produce and you, the audience’s, joint effort to attend.

It is important to keep up with the new, and we produce a contemporary play every year. First up this season is a new play, *Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors*, written in 2017 and a finalist for the National Playwrights Conference at the O’Neill Theater Center. In Jeff Talbott’s comedic drama about finding your voice in times of political turmoil, Yasmine and Nick are organizing political groups on campus; one in 1976 and one in 2016 just days before the presidential election. This is followed by the charming and tender Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) play, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. Every second year we present a play for children and bring in children from schools all over Cache Valley to experience live theatre. If you have never watched a play with 700 kids in the audience, you’re missing out! There are public performances too so there’s an opportunity for your whole family to attend. Our Shakespeare this year is *Pericles, Prince of Tyre*. Prince of who? A great opportunity to see one of Shakespeare’s lesser-known adventurous romances. In the spring, we bring you the musical [title of show]. Yes, this is the actual title. It’s a one-act musical which tells the story of its own creation as an entry in the New York Musical Theatre Festival, writer/stars Bowen and Bell, as well as director Michael Berresse all won Obie Awards for their work on this off-Broadway production. *She Kills Monsters* is a comedic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games. It is a high-octane, dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres, and 90s pop culture by the acclaimed young playwright Qui Nguyen. The final show in the season is Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*. A play that still feels relevant 65 years after its creation, by one of the most important playwrights of the 20th century. Enjoy our season – we chose it specially.

With warm regards,

Adrianne Moore
Artistic Director, Utah State Theatre
Department Head, Department of Theatre Arts
Production Team

Director Shawn Fisher*
Assistant Director Tanner Sase
Stage Manager Maya Bowers
Assistant Stage Manager Gary Kemp
Light Designer Connor Stevens
Sound Designer Jared Overturf
Props Hannah Whorton

Cast

2016

Yasmine Mollee Barse
Serena Abigail Smith
MacKenzie Madison Hansen
Cassie Maddie Liddell
Trip AJ Black
Foster Scotty Fletcher
Dar Rachel Banner

1976

Nick Blake Brundy
Franklin Alex Smith
Dexter Bryson LaBar
Libby Kaija Strong
Christina Stacey Shorthill

*Member of Dramatists Guild of America
& United Scenic Artists Local 829
Abigail Smith
Abigail Smith, a Mississippi native, is currently a junior in the BFA Acting Program. Her previous Utah State credits include Calliope/Aphrodite in Xanadu and a Puppeteer in Shockheaded Peter. Outside credits include Servant in The Seagull (The Swine Palace) and Mengo in Fuent de Ovejuna (Mississippi School of the Arts). She has had a blast working on this project and would like to extend many thanks to her fellow actors and the members of the crew.

AJ Black
This is AJ’s second show here in USU’s BFA: Acting Program. AJ is a sophomore in the program. This show has been a fantastic opportunity for AJ to grow as a student, an actor, a collaborator, and a human being. AJ is grateful for everyone involved in this production.

Kaija Strong
Kaija Strong is a sophomore in the USU acting program, as well as a writer. Having lived her whole life in Cache Valley, she looks forward to the adventures her career will take her on. Her recent acting credits include Coriolanus (Menenius) and As You Like It (Rosalind).

Alex Smith
Alex Smith is extremely excited to be a part of this daring production! The combination of real world political implications and a unique storytelling technique that bridges gaps between time periods is something he finds uniquely special and challenging about this play. He wants to say thank you to his friends and family for supporting on his journey towards graduation!

Stacey Shorthill
Stacey Shorthill is a 4th year BFA Acting major here at Utah State University. Some of her past roles have been as Cathy in The Great God Pan, Melpomene in Xanadu, and Meg in A Lie of the Mind. When not on the stage, she enjoys spending time with her husband and daughter and singing as loud as she can. She believes that the world would be a lot darker without theatre in it.

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Scotty Fletcher
Scotty Fletcher is a Senior in the BFA acting program and they are very excited to graduate! They are from the DC area and plan to move back there as soon as possible.

Blake Brundy
Blake Bundy, a transfer student from the Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts in Santa Maria, California. As a senior in The BFA Acting program, he has played roles such as: The Emcee in Shockheaded Peter, Thalia the Muse in Xanadu and Balthazar in Much Ado About Nothing. He is planning on going into a career in New York, and hopefully working on Broadway.

Bryson LaBar
Hailing from Las Vegas, Nevada, Bryson is a Junior in the BFA Acting Program. He is ecstatic to be involved in a show that brings awareness to the people who haven’t always had a voice, whether it be in the past or in the present. Past credits include Shockheaded Peter (Wolfgang), Xanadu (Terpsichore), Sideways Stories From Wayside School (Dameon), and Once Upon a Mattress (Ensemble). He sends a big thank you to Shawn, and all of the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Madison Hansen
Madison Hansen transferred from USU Eastern and is a junior in the BFA Acting program. She is so excited to be making her debut on the USU main stage as MacKenzie! Madison is so grateful for her husband McKade and her family’s constant support, and hopes she can make them proud!

Rachel Banner
Rachel Banner is excited to be performing at USU again! Recent credits include Sophia Grey in Sense & Sensibility, Joelle in The Great God Pan, and Lily in The Secret Garden. She has had a blast working on Civics & Humanities with such a talented cast and crew!

Maddie Liddell
Maddie Liddell is a senior in the acting program at USU. Her recent credits include “Rodger Douglas” (film) “Tinder Date” (film) and The Babylon Line (USU). She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her as she prepares to move to L.A. to pursue acting. She is currently represented by Urban Talent Management.

Mollee Barse
Mollee Barse is a graduate of PCPA class of 2018. She is a junior at USU in the BFA Acting program. She also appeared in last year’s season as Irene in Light Up the Sky, Beth in Lie of the Mind, and Princess Betsy in Anna Karenina. She is happy to be here and hopes this show will touch the hearts and minds of Utah audiences.
Director’s Notes
Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors

It is our pleasure to produce the second ever production of Jeff Talbott’s Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors. This play is uniquely complex in that there are two casts and two different storylines occurring decades apart. They move about the stage simultaneously sharing a space, without any awareness of the other group. This challenging piece has presented new obstacles for our actors and we are thrilled to share this with you.

On our second night of rehearsal, the cast received a call from the playwright, Jeff Talbott, himself. Afterwards he wrote, “Twelve young actors reminded me in no uncertain terms exactly why we do it. And, more importantly, that there are eager, ready, capable hands reaching for the baton from us — as artists, as citizens and as humans.”

Shawn Fisher
Associate Professor / Theatre Arts

Author Bio
Jeff Talbott

Jeff Talbott has appeared on Broadway (Sly Fox, Fortune’s Fool), and off-Broadway (Abundance, Such Good Friends, Home of the Brave). He has extensive nationwide regional credits, including many Christmas seasons as Ralph, the narrator of A Christmas Story. Other recent roles include Professor Elmore Crome (Abundance), Felix (The Odd Couple), Jack (Race), Schultz (circle mirror transformation), Vice Principal Panch (The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee), David Frost (Frost/Nixon) and Father Flynn (Doubt) at theatres including Cleveland Playhouse, St. Louis Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theatre Company, Studio Theatre (DC), Paper Mill Playhouse, Goodspeed Musicals, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Yale Repertory Theatre, Geva, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Missouri Repertory Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and Syracuse Stage, among many others. He has been in movie theatres (Julie & Julia) and on television (Madam Secretary, Orange is the New Black, Unforgettable, Boardwalk Empire, The Sopranos, all the Law & Order’s (multiple times), One Life to Live, As the World Turns). Jeff is a member of TACT, and is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.
PLEASE DONATE

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The Caine College of the Arts serves the people of the State of Utah and supports the mission of Utah State University by cultivating artistic and academic excellence, by preparing our students to realize their full creative potential as artist and citizens, by increasing the visibility of the college and university, and by fostering professionalism and collegial relationships in all aspects of our operations.

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
FACULTY & STAFF

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LUANN BAKER, PROGRAM COORDINATOR
BECKY WINSTEAD, STAFF ASSISTANT

LESLEY BROTT, RICHIE CALL, BRUCE DUERDEN, SHAWN FISHER,
KELLY SIMMONS, DENNIS HASSAN, NANCY HILLS, MATT OMASTA,
LYDIA SEMLER, MICHAEL SHIPLEY, JASON SPELBRING,
AND STEPHANIE WHITE

The Caine College of the Arts Visiting Artists and Scholars Series is underwritten by the Marie Eccles Caine Foundation – Russell Family, the Tanner Charitable Trust, other generous donors, and Differential Tuition provided by the students of the college.
FALL 2019 PRODUCTIONS

CIVICS AND HUMANITIES FOR NON-MAJORS
BY JEFF TALBOTT
SEPTEMBER 24 – 28 / BLACK BOX THEATRE / 7:30 PM
SEPTEMBER 28 / 2 PM MATINEE

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE
BY DWAYNE HARTFORD FROM THE BOOK BY KATE DICAMILLO
OCTOBER 4 & 11 / MORGAN THEATRE / 7:30 PM
OCTOBER 5 & 12 / 2 PM MATINEE

PERICLES, PRINCE OF TYRE
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
NOVEMBER 22 – 23 / DECEMBER 3 – 6 / MORGAN THEATRE / 7:30 PM
DECEMBER 7 / 2 PM MATINEE

SPRING 2020 PRODUCTIONS

SHE KILLS MONSTERS
BY QUI NGUYEN
FEBRUARY 4 – 8 / CAINE LYRIC THEATRE / 7:30 PM
FEBRUARY 8 / 2 PM MATINEE

[TITLE OF SHOW]
BY HUNTER BELL AND JEFF BOWEN
MARCH 10 – 14 / CAINE LYRIC THEATRE / 7:30 PM

THE CRUCIBLE
BY ARTHUR MILLER
APRIL 10 – 11 & 14 – 17 / MORGAN THEATRE / 7:30 PM
APRIL 18 / 2 PM MATINEE