Utah State University
Department of Theatre Arts

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
Cast Bios

Cameron Neeley
@cameron.s.neeley

Cameron Neeley is a senior in the BFA Acting program. Previous roles include: Nikolai in Anna Karenina and Carleton in Light Up the Sky. Stay hydrated!

Cat Evangelho
@ladycattitude

Cat Evangelho is a graduate of the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts. She is currently in her final year at USU, where she was recently seen as Kitty in Anna Karenina. Previous credits include Newsies, Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella (PCPA) and The Whale (Fresno City College).

Nicole Frederick
@nik_freddi

Nicole Frederick is a freshman in the BFA-Acting program. She has been participating in shows since her sophomore year of high school and is so excited to continue doing shows at USU. Some of her favorite roles have been The Little Mermaid, Cinderella and Singing in the Rain.

Hanna Speer
@karleighgirl

Hanna is in her junior year of the BFA acting program and is thrilled to be a part of her first TYA show. Her past credits at USU include Shockheaded Peter (Puppeteer), Xanadu (Euterpe), and Once Upon a Mattress (Lady Beatrice). You’ll be able to see her as both Lychnoria and Diana in the upcoming show Pericles this winter. She is very excited to share the story of Edward Tulane and hopes it touches the hearts of those watching. “This is love. This must be love.”

Anne-Marie Kate
@annemarie_kate

Anne-Marie Kate is a second year BFA Acting student at Utah State University. She has recently been seen as Erato in Xanadu (USU), Lady Mabelle in Once Upon a Mattress (USU), and many other pre-collegiate productions back home in Arizona. With Edward Tulane having been one of the books her mother read to her as a child, she has loved being able to work on this production and sends her thanks to all involved!

Cameron Eastland
@priv._cjames

Cameron is happy to be a member of the Edward Tulane cast, and he hopes that the story they are telling reaches the hearts of all ages. PCPA 2017. USU 2020. Please buy snacks at the Camtina.

Rebecca Swan
@rebecca.swan03

This is Becca Swan’s sixth production here at Utah State University, and her first time getting to work on a TYA show! She is very excited to tell this wonderful story to children from age 2 to age 102. She is in her last year of the BFA Acting program, and upon graduation hopes to begin doing professional work and spend some time back in Texas with her family. Thanks for the love and the support xx
**Director’s Notes**
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Most plays for young people feature a child or adolescent as the protagonist, or main character.

As these characters embark on fictional journeys through dramatic worlds, they often face very real challenges that actual young people encounter in their own lives. These plays can foster hope and inspire the young people in their audiences by modeling how the young characters harness their knowledge and skills to overcome the difficulties they face.

*The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, however, is not primarily about a child. While young characters appear in the play, the show is ultimately about a toy china doll rabbit who cannot speak or move. While I do not generally associate hope and inspiration with inanimate objects, this play tells one of the most moving stories I have ever had the privilege of helping to share.

This is a story of learning to love, to build friendships with all those we meet, and to respect the value every individual brings to the world. It is a story that reminds us what is important, and why.

**Matt Omasta, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor, Associate Department Head, and Theatre Education Program Director
FALL 2019 PRODUCTIONS

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