

BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF

THEATRE & DANCE



2023-24 ARTISTIC
SEASON

FALL 2023

FIRST YEAR THEATRE SHOWCASE

UNIVERSITY: A NEW GENERATION

by Jon Jory

Directed by Alice Jackins '25

Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 23, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Tustin Studio Theatre

\$7 general admission

Continuing the fantastic tradition of first-year students kicking off the season, this student directed comedy presents a series of short plays that follows students from orientation to graduation day as they discover the joys and uncertainties of college life. From the pressures of academic excellence to the quest for self-discovery, the characters grapple with identity, relationships, and the forever-changing landscape of the modern world. Addressing pertinent social issues such as mental health, gender stereotypes, and the clash between tradition and progress, the show invites audiences to reflect on their own personal journeys through/with higher education and challenges them to envision a future where education becomes a catalyst for change and growth.

THEATRE MAINSTAGE

MEN ON BOATS

By Jaclyn Backhaus

Directed by Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson

Friday, Saturday & Monday,

Oct. 20, 21 & 23, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 22, 2 p.m.

Harvey M. Powers Theatre

\$7 / \$12 general admission

Ten explorers. Four boats. One Grand Canyon. Men on Boats is the true(ish) history of an 1869 expedition, when a one-armed captain and a crew of insane yet loyal volunteers set out to chart the course of the Colorado River. Playwright Jacklyn Backhaus' delightful adventure examines the conquering men out to chronicle the land in service of America, God, and Manifest destiny. As per the playwright's request, these historically white male characters are all given voice and movement by actors who are anything and everything but white and male identifying - offering an entertaining and critical lens on the determination, foolishness and humanity of this group of frontiersmen in an historic moment in America's adolescence.



DANCE SHOWCASE

FALL DANCE SHOWCASE

Directed by Kelly Knox

Friday, Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Tustin Studio Theatre

\$7 general admission

This audience favorite returns, showcasing a vast range of dance talent and styles with performances of student, faculty and guest artist choreography. Student groups are also featured, welcoming an array of fresh new works from a variety of dance genres. Don't miss this chance to celebrate the joy of dance!

* Please note: the venue is Tustin Studio Theatre, not Harvey Powers

DANCE MAINSTAGE

FALL DANCE CONCERT: THE ELEMENTS

Directed by Er-Dong Hu and

Dustyn Martincich

Friday & Saturday, Dec. 1 & 2, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 3, 2 p.m.

Harvey M. Powers Theatre

\$7 / \$12 general admission

Earth, Wood, Metal, Fire, Water: five elements key to Chinese philosophy and culture serve as the inspiration for the first evening length dance concert in twenty years. We're building a full-scale, epic work in which movement, design, imagination, and the natural world collide.

With choreography by dance faculty Er-Dong Hu, Kelly Knox, and Dustyn Martincich along with Lea Codispot '24, Hailey Jacobs '24, Tyler Luong MA '24, and Adrianna Rakauskas '24, the evening will be threaded together by the dynamic innovations of the design faculty. This fall concert will be like no other. Join us in premiering the culmination of a new work where artists explore the potential harmony and dissonance of these elements in our lives and in our world.



CREATIVE MOVEMENT WORKSHOPS

Each semester, the Dance Program offers FREE creative movement workshops for kids, open to the community. Guided by Bucknell dancers, children explore their imaginations through movement. For more information please contact Kelly Knox, Director of Dance at 577-3500.

COCKTAIL THEATRE TEN-MINUTE PLAYS

By Various Playwrights

Directed by the THEA 240 Directing Class

Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 4 & 5

Tustin Studio Theatre

Free Admission

The Cocktail Theatre One-Act Plays are the final projects for Directing students. Come and enjoy these always entertaining 10-minute plays. The start time for this production will be released later in the semester. Please contact the department for more information.

SPRING 2024

THEATRE MAINSTAGE

GOD OF CARNAGE

By Yasmina Reza

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Bryan M. Vandevender

Friday, Saturday & Monday

Feb. 23, 24 & 26, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m.

Tustin Studio Theatre

\$7 / \$12 general admission

When a playground altercation between their eleven-year old sons results in bodily harm, two pairs of seemingly progressive Brooklyn parents meet to broker peace. However, a series of not-so-veiled accusations and slights interrupts the negotiations. They soon dispense with civility and engage in a vicious game of moral grandstanding and one-up-manship. Yasmina Reza's award-winning dark comedy is a play for our times, demonstrating how even the most well-intentioned adults can employ thoroughly juvenile tactics.

CONTENT ADVISORY: *God of Carnage* features language related to race, sexuality, and ability that is commonly identified as violent or pejorative. The play is recommended for mature audiences.

THEATRE MAINSTAGE

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music and Lyrics by William Finn

Book by Rachel Sheinkin

**Directed and Choreographed by
Dustyn Martincich**

Music Direction by Jaime Namminga

Friday, Saturday & Monday,

April 12, 13 & 15, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 14, 2 p.m.

Harvey M. Powers Theatre

\$7 / \$12 general admission

“Please spell ‘Syzygy.’”

The annual spelling bee at Putnam Valley Middle School in Putnam County, NY is a fierce competition. In this hilarious, charming, and fast-paced musical, six spellers divulge their own intensity, quirks, and backstory. Winner of the Tony and Drama Desk award for Best Book, this musical comedy based on C-R-E-P-U-S-C-U-L-E, an original improvisation play created by Rebecca Feldman, touches on the pressure of competition, the roots of ambition, and how we are impacted by formative experiences from childhood. Audiences are invited to join in the bee to experience the rush and anxiety of trying to avoid the dreaded “ding” of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Only one can be named champion.



DANCE SHOWCASE

CHOREOGRAPHER'S SHOWCASE

Directed by Er-Dong Hu

Friday April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday April 6, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Tustin Studio Theatre

\$7 general admission

Student choreographers from the Dance Composition class will premiere new works in this popular spring showcase. Special performances will include student dance groups and dance technique classes. Enjoy a wonderful presentation of new student work, and come see students of all experiences perform an array of dance styles.

DANCE MAINSTAGE

SPRING DANCE CONCERT

Directed by Kelly Knox

Friday April 26, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday April 27, 7:30 p.m.

Weis Center For The Performing Arts

\$7 / \$12 general admission

Please join us for a very special spring concert, as we honor retiring dance faculty Er-Dong Hu. We look forward to welcoming back alumni to take part in a new work created by Professor Hu for his final bow. In addition, Professor Kelly Knox teams with biologist Sarah Lower, visual artist and storyteller Ibiyinka Alao, and the department's own Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson and Heath Hansum in a collaborative investigation based on the wonder of fireflies. Student choreographers and guest artists will also premiere dynamic pieces for a rich and nostalgic evening of dance as we celebrate the 30 year legacy of Er-Dong Hu.

**A reception to honor Professor Hu will follow Friday evening's performance.*

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Jack Filpi

entertainment technology assistant

Katie Hanes

academic assistant

Heath J. Hansum, co-director of theatre

lighting and sound design

Carly Holzwarth

costume design and history

Er-Dong Hu

dance technique and theory

Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson, co-director of theatre

acting, directing, devising

Mark Hutchinson

technical direction, stage management

Kelly Knox, director of dance

dance technique and theory

Natalie Shoch

assistant costumer

Dustyn Martincich, chair

theatre and dance technique and theory

Sierra Pete

costume studio manager

Bryan M. Vandevender

theatre history and theory

F. Elaine Williams

scenography

Generous support by the Bucknell Association for the Arts, the Richard A. Klein Theatre and Dance Endowment, the Skvarla Family, the Office of the President, and the Benson Fund have made guest artists' residencies, master classes, and workshops for our 2023-24 artistic season possible.



Making and re-making history, experiencing and reflecting on milestones; this season is sure to offer something for everyone. On behalf of the Department of Theatre & Dance, I invite you to come experience live performances that are the culmination of collaboration and exploration in our creative laboratories. We can't wait to welcome you, or welcome you back!

DUSTYN MARTINCICH, CHAIR



TICKET INFORMATION:

All seating is general admission. Tickets (Main Stage \$12 regular or \$7 for students, senior citizens, and children; Showcases \$7 all ages) are available by calling **570-577-1000**, online at **bucknell.edu/BoxOffice** or at any Campus Box Office location: **Weis Center**, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; **CAP Center**, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mobile tickets purchased may be processed up until show time. If available, tickets may be purchased on the night of the performance beginning one half hour before the curtain rises.

ACCESSIBILITY:

The Department of Theatre & Dance is committed to creating an inclusive and accessible event. If you require reasonable accommodations, please either inform the Campus Box Office when reserving tickets or reach out to Katie Hanes (570-577-1235 or kjho21@bucknell.edu) at least 48 hours before the performance date to discuss your needs. For more information on accessibility and our performance spaces, please visit Bucknell.edu/TheatreAndDance.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT:

The Department of Theatre & Dance respectfully acknowledges and recognizes our responsibility to the original and current caretakers of this land, water, and air: the Susquehannock peoples and all of their ancestors and descendants, past, present, and future. We live and create our art here within the Bucknell community and we strive to honor those caretakers of this homeland in our presence and work.

Bucknell.edu/TheatreAndDance • Bucknell.edu/BoxOffice



[bucknell.theatre](https://www.bucknell.edu/theatre)
[bucknell_dance](https://www.bucknell.edu/dance)



[Bucknell University Department
of Theatre and Dance](https://www.bucknell.edu/theatre)
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This publication will be made available in alternative formats for individuals with disabilities upon request.

*Photos from the 2022-2023 artistic season have been provided by
Gordon Wenzel, Mark Hutchinson, and Henry Qiu '23*