



January 2020
Volume 3, Issue 1

Welcome to a new year, a new decade, and a new edition of edition of *Greystone Gossip*, the newsletter for Greystone Theatre at the University of Saskatchewan.

We started off our 74th season with an early stage version of Mary Shelley's 1818 gothic horror novel *Frankenstein*. Originally written in 1826, Henry M. Milner's popular melodrama was the first stage adaptation of the novel to feature the birth of the Monster on stage.

Directed by Dwayne Brenna, our production featured Kaylub Sinclair as Doctor Frankenstein who uses his scientific knowledge to bring a creature of his own making to life. As realized in exquisite, gruesome detail by monster builders Milaine Curé and Emily Johnson and costume designer Beverley Kobelsky, the Monster, played by Max Folk and Henry Zhang, appeared to be constructed of body parts from various corpses hastily stitched together. In spite of his grotesque appearance, the Monster displays unfailingly human characteristics, thereby eliciting a surprising amount of pity from the audience.

In an interview with Matt Smith of *The StarPhoenix* Chloé Mallinson, who plays Frankenstein's love interest Emmeline, said "I think people

will be overwhelmed by how you see Frankenstein bringing to life the monster and you follow through his story... and how empathic they feel towards this hideous beast."

Our next production was April de Angelis's *Playhouse Creatures*, a contemporary script set in the King's Theatre in London in the late 1660s in an England titillated and scandalized by the decision of King Charles II to allow female actors on stage for the first time.

Directed by Julia Jamison, it featured a stellar all-female cast of five portraying strong period characters who either existed in real life or were heavily inspired by the first women actors on the Restoration stage. When speaking to *The Sheaf* about her role in the production, Paige Francoeur (Mrs. Farley) expressed her delight in playing a character inspired by a trailblazer in her field.

"We get to channel spirits of people who were real," she said. "The show becomes a tribute to all that they did to allow me to continue doing what I get to do."

Alternating between on stage classical performances at the King's Theatre and backstage conversations between the actors, the play's action was seamlessly framed and brought to life by Judith Schulz's set.



Directed by: Dwayne Brenna
Set and Lighting Design by: Carla Orosz
Costume Design by: Beverley Kobelsky
Poster Design by: Emily Rempel

Poster designed by Emily Rempel



Poster designed by Aallyyah Dustyhorn
The Three Witches from Macbeth by Daniel Gardner, Whistler's Portrait Gallery
November 20-30, 2019 8:00pm
Direction: Julia Jamison Lighting Design: David Granger
Set Design: Judith Schulz Costume Designer: Beverley Kobelsky
John Mitchell Building

Poster designed by Aallyyah Dustyhorn

Frankenstein; or The Man and the Monster



Doctor Frankenstein (Kaylub Sinclair) reveals his creation (Max Folk)



The Monster's (Max Folk) rage builds



A soldier (Matthew Rempel), Strut (Adam Tweidt) and the townfolk (Nathaniel Morin & Vinrecs Lescano) share a moment of revelry



The Monster (Max Folk) has captured Emmeline (Chloé Mallinson) as Frankenstein (Kaylub Sinclair) tries to reason with him



Frankenstein Cast, Top Row (L to R): Matthew Rempel as a Soldier, McKenzie Huyghebaert as Rosaura, Adam Tweidt as Strut, Vinrecs Lescano as a Townsperson, Emily Pickett as Julio, Middle Row (L to R): Chris Krug-Iron as Prince, Nathaniel Morin as a Townsperson, Joshua Dawes as Ritzberg, Nicholas Porrelli as Quadro, Bottom Row (L to R): Katie Blackburn-Dust as Julio, Kayla Perkins as Lisetta, Chloé Mallinson as Emmeline, Kaylub Sinclair as Frankenstein, Max Folk as the Monster

Playhouse Creatures



Nell Gwyn (Danova Dickson) and Mrs. Marshall (Emily Heinek) share a moment backstage



Mrs. Farley (Paige Francoeur) deep in thought



Mrs. Marshall (Emily Heinek) assists Mrs. Betterton (Bobbi-Lee Jones) acting as Cleopatra



Doll Common (Janna Wigton) holds up a prop crown



Playhouse Creatures Cast, Clockwise from Top L: Emily Heinek as Mrs. Marshall, Bobbi-Lee Jones as Mrs. Betterton, Janna Wigton as Doll Common, Paige Francoeur as Mrs. Farley, Danova Dickson as Nell Gwyn

We have two upcoming shows to watch for:

Feb 4 - 8 | 8:00pm

The Secret in the Wings

By Mary Zimmerman

Directed by Treena Stubel

An adaptation of a group of lesser-known fairy tales that sets their dark mystery against the playwright's signature wit and humor. Costumes, props, sets and lighting are used to brilliant effect, creating images and feelings that render the tales in all their elemental and enduring power.

This show will feature the 1st and 2nd year students from the Drama department.

March 18 - 28 | 8:00pm

The Grass Tomb

By Oh T'ae-Sok, Translated by Ryu Yung-Kyun

Directed by Raymon Montalbetti

The Grass Tomb is unusual for its attempts to break away from the realistic or naturalistic trends that have predominated in the Korean theatre since its modern inception. The play's uniqueness lies in the sophisticated rendering of the playwright's philosophical insight into the universe and society, which is based on time-honoured traditions of Eastern philosophy.

To order tickets, call (306) 966-5188 or order online at artsandscience.usask.ca/drama

Tickets go on sale two weeks before each show. No assigned seating. Wheelchair accessible (please call in advance).

No shows on Sundays.

Interview with Deneh'Cho Thompson

Deneh'Cho Thompson is a recent addition to the Department of Drama, stepping into the role of Program Coordinator for the *wicêhtowin* Theatre Program in January 2020. He earned a BFA from Simon Fraser University in Theatre Performance in 2018 and is working towards an MFA in Theatre Practice from the University of Alberta with a focus on Indigenizing Contemporary Acting Technique. He has over 10 years experience as a professional theatre artist as an actor, director, and an award winning playwright of *The Girl who was Raised by Wolverine*. Please join us in welcoming Deneh'Cho to the department.



When did you first develop a love of theatre?

My grandmother began taking me to the Edmonton Opera annually when I was ten years old. The first production I saw, and I remember it vividly, was Bizet's *Carmen*. After that experience I became fascinated with the nature of performance, the execution of virtuosity, and with modes of storytelling. My joy of performance germinated and sprouted over many years. It was not until my final year of high school that I stepped out of the audience and on to the stage for a production of the Scottish play. I have been in the theatre since that production.

What is your dream production for the Greystone Mainstage?

I dream of a production created entirely by a student ensemble. The nature of devised theatre means that I have absolutely no idea what that might look like, but I certainly excites me. Is it a roving show? An installation? Verbatim? Is a satire, or a tragedy? It could be full of magic and wonder, or perhaps it is simply honest storytelling. The only way to find out what the show is – is to start making it.

What is your vision for the future of the wicêhtowin Theatre Program?

As an undergraduate student I found that I had no opportunities for mentorship or guidance from Indigenous faculty, staff, or artists. My principal goal with the *wicêhtowin* Theatre Program is to create a space in which Indigenous students feel safe to explore their potential as storytellers, actors, directors, lighting designers, or whatever role they can envision for themselves. (And have some fun along the way too!)

CONGRATULATIONS

Our congratulations to the following students who convocated in Spring and Fall 2019!

B.F.A. Honours (Acting)

Erin Marie Brophy
Pieternella Neline Kielstra
Michael Martin
Julia Opdahl (*Walter Mills Award recipient*)
Katelyn Sarah Polischuk
Crystal Amanda Poniewozik
Samantha Margaret Ramsay
Danica Elaine Tempel

B.F.A. Honours (Design)

Jesse Alexander Aitken
Logan Taylor Martin-Arcand
Timothy Dale Mason
Brandon Allan Parfitt (*awarded posthumously*)
Jensine Emeline Trondson (*winner of the University Medal in the Fine Arts*)

4-year B.A.

Jennifer Lee Collins
Courtney Nickel

3-year B.A.

Kelly Elizebeth Carty

Certificate in wicêhtowin Theatre

Sheila Kimowan Naytowhow (Saskatoon)
Aaron Marie Nepoose (Saskatoon)
Kayla Peters (Sturgeon Lake First Nation)

Interdisciplinary M.A. in Drama (with History and English)

Skye Morgan Brandon (B.F.A. 2000)
"Shakespeare and King Henry V: Historical Research Informing Artistic Directions" (Fall, 2019) 88 pages
Co-supervisors Moira Day (Drama) and Joanne Rochester (English)

Related

B.Ed. (Drama Major)

Brayden Bert Aaron Bentley
Rachelle Lynn Block (B.F.A. 2018)
Erin Leslie Carson (3-year B.A. History 2016; B.F.A. 2017)
Rebecca Sharon Tillie Chelack (B.F.A. 2017)
Sheldon B. Matiko (4-year B.A. Drama 2017)
Rachelle Marie Seib
Ashley Marie Vedress

4-year B.A. English

Katelyn Sarah Polischuk (B.F.A. 2019)

B.Ed. (Arts Education)

Robyn Lynne Bray (B.F.A. 2017)

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Around the Department

Fall/Winter 2019 Events:



Theatre history professor Moira Day and students from her theatre history classes presented a staged reading of *The High Green Gate*, Elsie Park Gowan's wry 1952 radio play about Canadian women fighting to get daycare, on Tuesday November 26 in the Henry Woolf theatre.



The Drama Students Association presented *Rooftops*, written and directed by Drama student Drew Mantyka. Originally developed as a one-act for the 2018 DSA One-Acts festival, the revamped full-length version of the show ran from December 11 to 15 in the Henry Woolf theatre.



The North Studio space in the John Mitchell building was formally named after Henry Woolf, professor in the Department of Drama from 1983 until 1997. An official dedication ceremony was held on Monday January 20, which is Woolf's 90th birthday.



We launched a new internship program in January 2020, where senior students apply for a placement at a Saskatchewan professional theatre company. The first internship student is Rory Jewiss, who is a Production Assistant at La Troupe du Jour for their upcoming production of Martine Noël-Maw's *Will & Ernest*.

In Memoriam - Brandon Allan Parfitt (1994-2019)

In July, Brandon Parfitt, a recent BFA Theatre Design graduate, passed away. We would like to express our condolences to his family and friends in the department.

"It's so much darker when a light goes out than it would have if it had never shone" - John Steinbeck



Student & Alumni Accomplishments:

Congratulations to **Emily Pickett**, recipient of the 2019-20 Naomi Arps Scholarship (\$14,000), and **Katie Blackburn-Dust**, **Milaine Curé**, **Paige Francoeur** and **Judith Schulz**, recipients of the Florence Jean Murray Scholarship (\$2,500 each).

Many of our staff and alumni were honored at the 2019 Saskatoon and Area Theatre Awards at a gala at Persephone Theatre in September. Acting instructor **Kenn McLeod** won Outstanding Supporting Performance for *As You Like It*, and costume instructor **Beverley Kobelsky** won Outstanding Costume Design for *As You Like It*.

Alumni SATAward winners were **Jared Beattie** (BFA '12), Outstanding Sound Design/Composition for *A Soldier's War*; **Joshua Beaudry** ('94-'98), Outstanding Direction for *The Aliens*; **Jenna Berenbaum** (BFA '15), Outstanding Supporting Performance for *The Comedy of Errors*; **Byron Hnatuk** (BFA '10), Outstanding Lighting Design for *A Soldier's War*; **Jenna-Lee Hyde** (BFA '15), Outstanding Leading Performance for *Every Brilliant Thing*; **Kyle Kuchirka** (BFA '18), Outstanding Emerging Artist (Performance); and **Jody Longworth** (BA '90), Outstanding Set Design for *The Aliens*.

It should also be mentioned that the Department of Drama was well-represented in the two following productions:

A Soldier's War - Outstanding Ensemble
Jared Beattie (BFA '12), **Torien Cafferata** (BFA '16), **Kyle Kuchirka** (BFA '18), **Josh Ramsden** (BFA '11) and **Devin Wesnoski** (BFA '14)

With Glowing Hearts - Outstanding Production
Rachelle Block (BFA '18), **Angus Ferguson** (Acting Instructor), **Angela Kemp** (BFA '11), **Nadia Mori** (BFA '17), **Elizabeth Nepjuk** (BFA '15), **Jensine Trondson** (BFA '19)

Our congratulations as well to those alumni whose work was nominated including **Daniel Ford Beavis** (BFA '00), **Jacqueline Block** (BFA '14), **Rachelle Block** (BFA '18), **Torien Cafferata** (BFA '16), **S.E. Grummett** (BFA '16), **Amberlin Hsu** (BFA '16), **Miranda Hughes-McKnight** (BFA '16), **Crispi Lord** (BFA '98), **Taegan O'Bertos** (BFA '18), **Elizabeth Nepjuk** (BFA '15), **Charlie Peters** (BFA '13), **Josh Ramsden** (BFA '11) and **Danielle Spilchen** (BFA '13).

Upcoming Event: *Reasonable Doubt* - A Theatrical Journey in Community Talking, Listening and Healing

In 2015, playwright and journalist Joel Bernbaum was commissioned by Persephone Theatre to work on a play on race relations in our province. Then, in 2016, Colten Boushie was fatally shot on Gerald Stanley's farm near Biggar, SK – and the direction of the project changed dramatically. Joel began working with director & dramaturge Yvette Nolan and musician Lancelot Knight to collaborate on a new documentary play with music.



On the eve of the play's opening on the Persephone Theatre Mainstage, join Joel Bernbaum and Yvette Nolan in a discussion about the genesis and development of the world premiere of *Reasonable Doubt*, on **Monday January 27** from 5-6pm at the **Henry Woolf Theatre (John Mitchell 161)**.



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