

# STAGES

Spring 2021



# A Note from the Chair



Spring 2021

Stages

Department of Theatre and Dance

Throughout this year of experimentation, our Department has made great strides in education, art making and storytelling via our new digital platforms and technologies. With a focus on finding connection amidst our physical separation, we launched several new initiatives that will have lasting power beyond this pandemic. One important method we have employed is engaging our talented alumni in a variety of ways. Many have made guest appearances in our classes, rehearsal processes, and other virtual events, sharing their experiences from the performing arts world and inspiring our students with their numerous achievements. We have also supported their virtual projects and aim to continue building these relationships going forward. Our faculty, staff and students have been busy hosting podcasts, workshops, and discussion series in addition to wellness meetings, virtual check-ins, and special opportunities for our students.

We continue to make strides toward our commitment to antiracist and inclusive educational and creative practices, knowing we have a long journey ahead. We believe in the transformational power of theatre and dance and know we can use our art to effect positive change. Finally, we are excited to announce our next season and look forward to seeing you all in our theatres again.

Sarah M. Barry,  
Department Chair





# Meet the New UA Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff!

## Rachael Inman



A love for expressing herself nonverbally led to Rachael Inman's eclectic career as a dance artist and educator who now, ironically, enjoys being verbal through consulting, mentoring and advocating for the art. Over the years she has enjoyed a wide range of experiences; performing, choreographing, directing and teaching at numerous and diverse organizations. Honored to serve currently as Artistic Director at The Dance Foundation, she leads an amazing team of dance artists and musicians working with students of various ages, abilities and backgrounds.

Prior to TDF Rachael was on the faculty at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi,

teaching ballet, modern and graduate choreography. In 2010, she was awarded the Dance Fellowship from Alabama State Council on the Arts. She co-founded Fuzion Dance Artists, Inc., now known as Sarasota Contemporary Dance. She was also honored to be chosen as teaching assistant at The Florida State University and received her MFA in 2002.

Through her graduate studies, Rachael explored aerial dance through her choreographic work, reflecting humankind's age old fascination with flying. With more than 20 years teaching and performing, she continues to engage the spirit, mind and body with transformative intent, both on and off the stage.

Rachael is blessed to be the proud mother of three "tiny dancers" and wife to her dance partner for life.

Department of Theatre and Dance

[theatredance.ua.edu](http://theatredance.ua.edu)



# Performing Perspectives

*The arts help bring communities together in efforts to effect social change by inspiring its communities to value diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, consequently reaffirming our shared humanity. As such, we must do the work required to transform our world.*

Performing Perspectives is a conversation series that was implemented this spring at UA Theatre and Dance with the intent of tackling community and university topics that are not as visible on our stages and in our curriculum.

Stemming as the brainchild of Theatre Instructor, Misha Hadar, and Assistant Professor of Dance, Lyndell McDonald, faculty members across the department accumulated material and information that felt pertinent to share with students related to topics including a deep dive into the cultures and societal contexts of relevance among today's social justice movements. Topics have included such performance pieces as Diana Son's Stop Kiss, to a recent conversation facilitated by Assistant Professor of Dance, Alvon Reed, sharing his work on an original musical Hattie Mae's Jook Joint – based on African American music and dance.

"This program is important for a number of reasons," Hadar says, "The hope is that through these conversations students and others in the local community get to watch/read/think about material they otherwise would not have exposure to previously. Additionally, it is an opportunity to talk and think together, in a relaxed and friendly environment, about issues of representation and diversity."

Anyone that is interested can join in on the conversation. All individuals are welcome.



# PERFORMING PERSPECTIVES

Sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Dance DEI Committee

## A Virtual Contemporary Series

Mondays | 4:30pm



College of  
Arts & Sciences  
Theatre and Dance

Performing Perspectives  
is a conversational series  
held every other week  
on the world of the  
performing arts.

For more information, and to get the  
Zoom link,

contact Misha Hadar: [mhadar@ua.edu](mailto:mhadar@ua.edu)



## OUR TOPICS

- Jan. 25 Misha Hadar: "Marisol"
- Feb. 1 Lyndell McDonald: "Stop Kiss and R.A.W. ('Cause I'm a Woman)"
- Feb. 15 Erin Stoneking: "Billie Holiday Theatre's 12 Angry Men... and Women: The Weight of the Wait"
- Mar. 1 Fen Kennedy: "Utter East- Dance and Disability"
- Mar. 15 Alvon Reed: "Developing an Original Musical-Hattie Mae's Jook Joint"
- Mar. 29 Ja'Morris Rivers: "Shannell Bell – Street Dance Activism"
- Apr.12 Aidan Nettles: "Performance, Pop Culture, and the Black Female Body"

# Alumni Spotlight

## Shea McMillan

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre '16



Residing in Dallas, Texas, Shea McMillan is no stranger to UA Theatre and Dance. A 2016 alumni of the Musical Theatre program, Shea credits her education and experience at UA for her ability to think on her feet and be innovative creating theatre during a pandemic world.

Shea is the co-creator, producer, communications director and secretary of the board for Plague Mask Players. A new theatre company that was founded as an

inclusive outlet for professional performers to share their craft virtually and find human connection during the pandemic. Shea says, “We think creatively and quickly, putting on a new performance every other week with costumes and props from our own homes and no rehearsals. We love to disregard gender, age, or race in our casting process, giving actors a chance to stretch and grow in new ways.”

Starting in April 2020, Shea with her friend and former castmate, Samantha Calatozzo Cobb, started a Facebook group for her theatre friends to read *Much Ado About Nothing* together. The reading was a huge hit, which ultimately led to the formation of the group reading Shakespeare every week. From there, predominantly through word of mouth, Plague Mask Players (PMP) grew in popularity and scope. It has continued to grow into a full-fledge theatre company.

The ultimate goal of PMP is to stream popular virtual readings. As an established nonprofit, PMP is also anticipating the planning of full productions in-person as soon as it's safe to do so. They are fostering a community of support and development for performing artists and have begun to offer educational workshops. You can find more information about the workshops through their social media outlets.

**Want to know more about how to get involved?**

**Follow @plaguemaskplayers on their Facebook and Instagram.**



# Scholarship Spotlight

## Caitlyn Savage

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Caitlyn Savage is a junior dual major student, pursuing degrees in Dance and Public Relations. An active student within UA Theatre and Dance department, Caitlyn has performed in *Dance Alabama*, *Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre*, and numerous virtual performances.

Caitlyn transferred to The University of Alabama for her sophomore year and credits the faculty and students within the theatre and dance program for providing a home away from home and easy transition. “I love being a student here at UA because of the home I have found within the Department of Theatre and Dance. As a transfer student, I’ve been welcomed into this community by a passionate

group of faculty and peers who continue to nurture my individualities and motivate me to strive for success, by working to my fullest artistic, academic, and personal potential.” Caitlyn loves how unique the Dance program is in their curriculum offerings. Special attention is made towards a student’s individual interests and goals, providing flexibility around their training.

“I so appreciate the many opportunities I have had to represent the department on campus, in the Tuscaloosa community and throughout Alabama performing at philanthropic events, appearing on local television, and traveling the state to share the art of dance with children in elementary schools. I hope to continue to uniquely serve our program throughout my time here at UA.”

Upon graduation, Caitlyn hopes to pursue a professional dance career. She’s also looking forward to continuing to learn more about how she can merge her love for the arts and the field of public relations.





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**Theatre and Dance**

## 2021-2022 Season

### Theatre

#### **Pipeline**

*September 20- 26, 2021*

Nya Joseph is a dedicated public high school teacher who only wants the best for her son. Omari, her son gets tangled in a controversy at his upstate private school, bringing him to the verge of expulsion, threatening the life Nya hoped to give him. Explore her journey as she rallies to save her son from a broken system while being confronted with her own choices as a parent.

#### **The Colored Museum**

*January 31 - February 6, 2022*

Take a journey through the eleven exhibits of The Colored Museum and explore what it means to be Black in contemporary America. Come face to face with old and new stereotypes and, through George C. Wolfe's "in-your-face" satire, challenge your understanding of Black culture.

#### **Legally Blonde**

*April 13 - 15, 21-24, 2022*

In 2001 Elle Woods burst onto the screen captivating our hearts with her story of finding oneself in the face of heartbreak and doubt. After Elle's boyfriend, Warner, breaks up with her to go to Law School at Harvard, Elle becomes determined to get into the same school and on the way finds friendship and a newly ignited passion for justice. This musical adaptation of the blockbuster movie was nominated for seven Tony Awards including Best Book in a Musical and Best Score.

#### **Pippin**

*October 13-15, 21-22, 24, 2021*

Pippin is plagued by a challenge – purpose. Join the son of King Charlemagne as he goes on the journey of a lifetime to discover his purpose in the world moving from war to love trying to live a brilliant and extraordinary life before finding the answer in a rather unexpected place.

#### **Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**

*March 28 - April 3, 2022*

Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of the Baskervilles meets the comedic competence of Ken Ludwig to create this criminally entertaining comedy. Watch the master of deduction in his element as he unravels the clues to solve the murder that is rumored to be caused by a large, evil hound. Will everyone's favorite detective duo succeed in saving the next victim from the jaws of death?



## Dance

### Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre (ARDT)

*October 6-8, 2021*

Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre returns to the stage for its 30th season with graceful performances choreographed by our nationally-acclaimed dance faculty. Join us for a transformative visual experience and lively journey through motion.

### Dance Alabama!

*November 3-5, 2021*

Dance Alabama! is a collection of performances choreographed and designed by students and includes all genres of dance ranging from classical ballet, contemporary and hip-hop dance forms, designed to showcase student choreography that

### MFA Dance Concert

*November 17 - 19, 2022*

UA Theatre and Dance brings to you the 2nd annual MFA Dance Concert, a series of expressive and eclectic pieces created and choreographed by the Masters of Fine Arts in Dance candidates.

### Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre

*March 2 - 5, 2022*

Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre returns to the stage for its 30th season with graceful performances choreographed by our nationally-acclaimed dance faculty. Join us for a transformative visual experience and lively journey through motion.

### Dance Alabama!

*March 30 - April 2, 2022*

Dance Alabama! is a collection of performances choreographed and designed by students and includes all genres of dance ranging from classical ballet, contemporary and hip-hop dance forms, designed to showcase student choreography that

### Dance Collection

*April 22, 2022*

The Dance Collection is a series of dance pieces choreographed by our renowned faculty, talented graduating seniors and our rising dance students.



# SCHOLARSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS

## **Benefactor (\$20,000+)**

Allen Bales Memorial Fund Clark West  
 Endowed Scholarship Fund  
 Dianne Baker  
 Ed Williams Endowed Scholarship in  
 Theatre Education  
 Edith Barnes Endowed Scholarship

Lauren A. Wilson & Andy Fitch  
 John Ross Theatrical Design  
 Scholarship  
 Robert Odus and Mary Pettus Wilson  
 Endowed Scholarship  
 T. Earle & Francis Johnson Fund

## **Diamond (\$5,000+)**

Your name could be here!

## **Platinum (\$1,000+)**

Edith D. Barnes  
 Barbara Britton,  
 in honor of Anne Dillon Loflin  
 Alpha Lambda Delta  
 Daphne & Jim McMullen

Linda L. & Robert Shumilas  
 Stacy K. Young  
 Ed & Julia Williams  
 Mr. & Mrs. James E. Hedgpeth

## **Gold (\$500+)**

Alpha Chi Omega  
 James Atkinson  
 Mary & Bill Battle  
 Mary Burke & Dr. John Burke  
 Mr. and Mrs. James C. Hailey  
 Lori Hunt

Stephen Hunt  
 Fran & Jack Jecen  
 April Landon in honor of Brelyn Reece  
 Richard LeComte  
 Dalana Moorew  
 Patricia & Dr. Richard M. Snow MD

## **Silver (\$100+)**

Preston Adair  
 Madeline Adams  
 John Alexander  
 Karen Arrigo  
 Julie Bartine  
 Wendy Bee  
 Bethel Baptist Church of  
 Lascassas, Tennessee  
 Beverly & Donald J.  
 Benson Jr.  
 Dr. Larry J. Bowen  
 Ian W. Brown & Easty  
 Lambert-Brown  
 Fidelity Charitable  
 Lucy Craven  
 Erika Davis  
 Christine & Neil Dietsch  
 Christine Powless-  
 Dixon & Dr. David Dixon  
 Robert Fugate in honor of  
 Marissa Swanner  
 Anne Game

William Gantt  
 Dr. Jeffrey Goldberg  
 Tara Grenz  
 Dale Hall II  
 Stacey Hall  
 Jim Hammond  
 Jeffrey L. Harris  
 Dr. Luvada Harrison,  
 in honor of Hylan  
 "Dotts"  
 Johnson  
 Nita & H. Scott Hestevold  
 Kym Hoffmann  
 Don Noble & Jennifer  
 Horne  
 Laura & Thomas E.  
 Hunter  
 Garlette and T'challa D.  
 Jackson  
 Joanna G. Jacobs  
 Renee Johnson  
 Karen Julian

Kappa Delta  
 Leslie T. Kleine  
 April Landin  
 Miriam Lane  
 Susan & Steven P.  
 Lindamood  
 Linda & John Lochman  
 Barbara & John Loflin  
 Robert L. Loftin  
 Michael Malinconico  
 LeNa & Lyndell McDonald  
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael J.  
 Mendle

## **Silver (\$100+)**

James P. Merrill  
Barbara & John Millwee  
Angie Murdock  
Nicole O'Brien  
John C. O'Connell  
Ellen Odom  
Drs. Linda & Terry Olivet  
Jill & Michael Picone

Vanguard Charitable  
Endowment Program  
Nathaniel Reid  
Mark Reynolds  
Janet & Norvin Richards  
Kristen A. Rowse  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
Sharron & Mike Skipper

Laura Smith  
Dwight Stewart  
Alice Taylor  
Erika G. Walker  
Jennifer Weske  
Michelle M. Williams  
Wesley A. Young

## **Bronze Star (\$25+)**

Amanda Akridge  
Patricia Alfin  
Patrice Arnold  
Helena & Trevor Bain  
Clifton Baker  
Paula Berry  
Kelly Bond  
Thomas B. Breland, Jr.  
Heather Briggs  
Karen Brister  
Derrick Brown  
Emma Brown  
Maximiliano Cabrera  
Arevalo  
Cindy Calhoun  
Corinne Calhoun  
Shelley Carr  
Beth Chapman  
Sarah Chappell  
Harper Coleman  
Zachary Colantrello  
Danielle Corerro  
Katie Ritchie Cork  
Claire Craig  
Christine Crowther  
Gabrielle Cruz-Uribe  
Barbara Curtis  
Stephanie Curtis  
Anita Daily  
Matthew Davis  
Emma Dean  
Tammy Dean  
Shaeffer Diebolt  
Dr. Rona J. Donahoe  
Tammy Dran  
Emma Claire Dykes  
Mary Easley

Therrin Eber  
Dawson Estes  
Sonja Fincher  
Cody Floyd  
Lee Freeman  
Alison George  
Kendra Giles  
Todd Gray  
Mira and James E.  
Griffith, Jr.  
Lana Hagan  
Lauren Hailey  
Lori A. Hales  
Austin Hanover  
Ned Hart  
Jessica Hatfield  
John Heins  
Daniel Henderson  
Allison Hetzel  
Caroline Hill  
Grayson Hill  
Lexi Hivner  
Brandon Hobbs  
Lindsay Howard  
Patricia Hubbs  
Alaina Jones  
Lucy Kaufman  
Jeane Kemp  
Bethany Knight  
Lisa Kuchuk  
Laura Leverett  
Michael Lynch  
Sherry McColgin  
Heather McCraney  
Neil F. McFarlane  
Utz McKnight  
Mary Meares

Amanda Medlin  
Ann Marie Meeker  
James Merrell  
Jerry Mims  
Nancy R. Minkler  
Tammy Mixon  
Santiago Morales  
Charlotte Mustard  
Teagen Nabity-Grover  
Matthew Nash  
Marie Nearing  
Ana Nettles  
Arie Nettles  
Joseph Newman  
Gary Pacos  
Laura Pacos  
Maria Pacos  
Cassandra Pierce  
Dalton Pridmore  
Morgan Potts  
Stephanie Puffer  
George Rable  
Lauren Richardson  
Liz Richardson  
Lisa Gerios-Rohl

## **Bronze Star (\$25+)**

Liz Savage  
James M. Schor  
Mary Sealey  
Dr. Craig Shwery  
Jeramie L. Simmons  
Barbara Smith  
Harrison Smith

Doug Starzec  
Skye Travis  
Theodore Trost  
Tina W. Turley  
Margaret Turner  
Julie E. Vaughn  
Melvin Waits

Sandra Webb  
Thomas Weida, in honor  
of Dr. Jane Weida and  
Cindy Spitko  
Tara Williams  
Kathy Yarbrough  
Victoria Yeager

## **Stage Talks**

### **Our New Podcast Series!**

Epitomizing flexibility and a new horizon of engaging, socially-distanced outreach, UA Theatre and Dance has started a new podcast series! With the goal of shedding light on all things UA Theatre and Dance, this new series will dive into real conversations about the trends, practices, and accomplishments of our current students, alumni, and prestigious faculty and experts in the industry.

Not only are we excited, but we are encouraged. We are hopeful. We are intrigued. The performing arts industry is ever evolving with the passionate people and innovative technology that precedes it. As we take a step back and look at a nation that is recovering from a global pandemic, there is much to learn and much to take note as, history proves, we will not come back the same. As the industry repairs, we ask the question, “what’s next for you?” and “how does this impact your sector of performing arts?” while also uncovering some trends that are permeating the halls of the UA Theatre and Dance department.

Join us on this virtual endeavor and stay tuned to our social media channels at the beginning of each month for a new episode!

#### **January - Bridging the Gap**

Jerrilyn Lanier-Duckworth shares about her journey and work with Bridging the Gap: A Look into African-American Hair and Makeup for Theatre.

#### **February - Crown Conversations**

A panel of outstanding alumni of the UA Theatre and Dance program share about their involvement and journey in pageantry and how it relates to their academic endeavors.

#### **March - Alexander Technique**

In this episode we join our very own Kelley Schoger, Assistant Professor of Acting and Stage Movement, as we explore the intersection between Acting and Movement through the Alexander Technique.

**April - May TBA**



# STAGE TALKS

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A Podcast Series Celebrating All Things Theatre And Dance At The Capstone!



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Front Cover - *The Christians*, Fall 2018

Back Cover - *ARDT*, Spring 2020, Porfirio Solorzano