

# STAGES

Fall 2021



# A Note from the Chair

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Stages

Department of Theatre and Dance

Though we are still navigating our way through this pandemic with care and caution, we are excited to return to in-person classes and live audiences for our performances. The energy exchange in the theatres has certainly been rejuvenating! We are enjoying connecting back with our community through numerous engagement events and activities, including in-person auditions for our programs. We have learned so much about our art form and found new ways to train and connect even as we appreciate a return to some tried and true methods. Once again, we are excited to welcome new faces to the Department and look forward to new voices and perspectives to enhance our training and productions. Our faculty, students, and alumni continue to achieve success in a myriad of contexts and we are always thrilled to share news of their accomplishments. Finally, we appreciate the generosity of our community and patrons and are deeply grateful for a new financial gift from Eliza P. Culverhouse to support graduate dance students. I remain inspired by and grateful for the innovation and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students as we strive to meet the moment and challenge ourselves and each other to grow and learn.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah M. Barry".

Sarah M. Barry,  
Department Chair



# Faculty Highlight

## Kelley Schoger

Kelley Schoger is an Associate Professor of Acting, specializing in movement pedagogy. Kelley joined The University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance in 2015.



Since joining the department, she has served as the director for our production of *The Servant of Two Masters* and the Intimacy Director for *Spring Awakening*, among others, and has worked nationally and internationally in North Carolina, New York, and Edinburgh, Scotland. Kelley received her Master of Fine Arts in Theatre from Virginia Commonwealth University. In addition, she is a nationally certified teacher of the Alexander Technique.

This fall, Kelley was the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. She was awarded this grant/fellowship for the purpose of expanding her research and application of movement and intimacy choreography/direction in the realm of theatre, for her own artistic development and to enrich her teaching at UA and within the state. Currently, she is furthering her education through Intimacy Directors & Coordinators (IDC). IDC is a training body that has developed best practices for intimate scenes and a codified system of choreography for intimacy based in artistry, safety, and consent. Kelley is also using this funding to deepen her study of the movement techniques of Jacques LeCoq and Etienne Decroux.



***“This fellowship has given me the opportunity to realize what direction I want to go in terms of my artistry, and for me, that’s movement for the actor.”***

# The Art of Pivoting

*Pivot* is a term used in the performing arts when signaling a change of direction, commonly in the conjunction phrase “step pivot.” However, the word pivot has multiple meanings. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines the word pivot as “an adjustment or modification made in order to adapt or improve.”

It is no question that the Department of Theatre and Dance looks different today than it did two years ago. We have gained a greater sense of gratitude and appreciation for our art and all the aspects that go into it. We have always been capable of pivoting when performing choreography, but now we have the skills to pivot, adjust, and improve through any given circumstance. The University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance has pivoted through this year and will continue to even in the most difficult circumstances.

Ashley White, MFA Directing Candidate, was the director of our fall production of *Pipeline*. In a conversation with White, she gave us insight on how COVID-19 played a role in the show and gave the entire production team the opportunity to pivot. Ashley discussed how COVID-19 was a critical factor in the production team’s mind from the beginning. In the summer of 2021, the team was meeting and adjusting to the new guidelines that were given. Ashley said when they got the news that the cast would be in masks for the production, her mind immediately started coming up with creative solutions and maneuvers to allow this intimate story to be told.

Throughout the process, moments and challenges like this continued to occur, and every time Ashley and her team worked through them together.

***“It’s through challenges like this that great creativity and collaboration come.”***

***-Ashley White***



Cody Floyd, who is pursuing a BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Acting, discussed the adaptations that he has seen in the department as an undergraduate student. When our fall season auditions happened at the beginning of the year, Floyd was still out of town performing in summer stock. The directors pivoted and allowed him to do all his auditions virtually. Floyd discussed that before the pandemic, this may not have been an option. During COVID-19, self-tapes and virtual auditions became second nature. Because of the skills and infrastructure that are set up, this allowed students and directors to take advantage of these tools. “The tools we gained as actors during the pandemic are some that we will always be able to use,” Floyd said.

Henry Lewers, an instructor in the Musical Theatre concentration, was the Music Director for our production of *Pippin* this past October. Lewers joined the Department of Theatre and Dance in Fall of 2019, and in the spring of 2020 the pandemic hit. Lewers has watched the department adapt from a close perspective. Due to the circumstances during the production of *Pippin*, Lewers and his team decided to make great use of the understudies. Understudies are nothing new in the theatre however, the pandemic has made them more important than ever before. On top of that, the wider use of understudies allowed more of our students to be involved in the production. Lewers discussed how the health of the cast is now a group responsibility. The actions taken outside of the rehearsal room carried a heavier weight and affect everyone in the process. Because of this, Lewers said that it was the entire team’s responsibility to make sure that they did everything to keep everyone safe and healthy.



*Pipeline*  
Photo by Porfirio Solorzano

# New UA Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff

## Christian Tripp



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Department of Theatre and Dance

Christian Tripp joined the Department of Theatre and Dance this fall as a full-time Acting Instructor. However, Tripp's radiant spirit was not new around Rowand-Johnson. He graduated with a Master of Fine Art in Theatre with a concentration in Acting in Spring 2021. Before joining The University of Alabama, he graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Emory Henry College in Spring 2017. In addition to being an educator, Tripp is a professional who performs across the U.S. Most recently, he was in the company at the Colorado Shakespeare Theatre, where he performed in *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Odyssey*.

When asked about why he returned to The University of Alabama as an instructor, he responded with, "The students, definitely the students." His path to UA was one of sheer fate and opportunity. As a professional, his style is a culmination and collision of every experience and person who has been a part of his path. Tripp is the director for the upcoming production of *The Colored Museum*.



***"The students,  
definitely the  
students."  
-Christian Tripp***

# Soledad Sanchez



Soledad Sanchez is a Peruvian native with a career that has taken her across the globe. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpting from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru. Shortly after, she began teaching in higher education and her love of education continued to grow.

During this time, she got a certificate in Art Therapy and applied all her knowledge to being a better artist and teacher. Her passions continued to flourish through her love of interdisciplinary work and storytelling. Eventually her path led her to the United States, where she attended Pennsylvania State University and received a Master of Fine Arts in Scenic Design.

Upon graduating, she joined the faculty at the University of South Florida, where she taught for three years. In Fall 2021, Soledad joined the faculty of The University of Alabama, as an Assistant Professor of Scenic Design.

Soledad is an active member of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) and the International Organization of Scenographers, Theatre Architects and Technicians (OISTAT). Sanchez is the scenic designer of *The Colored Museum*.

***“I consider myself a global artist.”***  
***-Soledad Sanchez***



# Eliza P. Culverhouse Graduate

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UA's Dance program is home to over 170 undergraduate dance majors and an up-and-coming MFA Program. Now, thanks to a generous donation from Eliza P. Culverhouse, the MFA in Dance program is set to become even more accessible to potential candidates. A \$250,000 gift will create tuition assistance and other support for incoming MFA in Dance candidates. Students who are supported by Culverhouse's donation will be designated as Eliza P. Culverhouse Artist-Scholars, solidifying Culverhouse's legacy of generosity in the arts. "We are wholly grateful for her generous contribution to help our MFA program grow," said Lawrence Jackson, the Associate Chair of Dance.

This is not the first time that Culverhouse has made an impact on the program. Prior to this gift, she established the Eliza P. Culverhouse Fund for Excellence in Dance, which has grown to more than \$500,000 with the purpose of recruiting and funding guest artists, as well as providing financial support for priority needs such as costumes, equipment, and other student support. Since then, students have worked with a host of emerging and eminent guest artists, performed in international dance festivals, and attended national and international conferences, all thanks to Culverhouse's generosity. When it came time to develop the new MFA program, Culverhouse jumped at the opportunity to further support the dance program. "We need to be competitive with other [MFA in Dance] programs around the country," Jackson said. Sarah M. Barry, the Chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, agreed adding, "Providing financial support for students will allow them to pursue graduate education with lower or no student loan debt at the completion of their degree. It will also create opportunities for graduate students to assist faculty with teaching, rehearsal, technical, and other production elements which will boost their skill set as creative artists and teachers."



# uate Support Fund in Dance



*Thanks to Culverhouse's support, UA Theatre and Dance produced Gus Giordano's famous "Sing, Sing, Sing" staged by his granddaughter Lauren Giordano Whittington.*

With this gift, Barry and Jackson believe the MFA in Dance program will become more accessible for dancers interested in pursuing graduate studies. The 60-credit hour program focuses on expanding the students' choreographic and performance skills, as well as preparing candidates for an array of professional careers in dance. "Opportunities in the classroom will allow them to build rapport with undergraduate students and refine their pedagogical voice. These experiences will make them more competitive in the job market upon graduation," said Barry.

The new funding will attract a broader pool of candidates, in turn, nurturing the diverse and inclusive culture within the dance program. As a founding value of the program, diversity continues to be emphasized in the program's curriculum. Cornelius Carter, Professor Emeritus, said, "Diversity has always been the center of the dance program's mission, and that's something that I have treasured being a part of and continuing to witness." Both Carter and Jackson emphasized the importance of educating their students academically and culturally. Jackson explained that through the support of donors like Culverhouse, the dance program has been able to become even more accessible to interested students. He closed by saying, "Our work has become recognized nationally and internationally, and none of that would have been possible without the support of Eliza."

# Scholarship Spotlight



## Caio Godoy

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Caio Godoy is a sophomore dance major with a minor in advertising. Godoy was born in São Paulo, Brazil where he lived for 11 years before moving to Chattanooga, TN. Godoy was a company member at Chattanooga Dance Theater for six years before moving to Alabama. Godoy was recognized for his choreography during the Tennessee Association of Dance festival where he won the Cathie Ault Kasch Student Choreography Award. Godoy also attended Chattanooga High Center for Creative arts, a performing arts high school where he studied dance.

He was Vice President, then President, of the pre-professional dance company “Project Motion,” where he worked with master faculty from all over the country including New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and more.

Since becoming a student at The University of Alabama, he has participated in various *Dance Alabama!* pieces and directed his own DAFF film. He was awarded the Outstanding Freshman Award in Spring 2020 and is currently a class representative for the sophomore class. After college, he plans on pursuing a career in dance and choreography.



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[theatre.ua.edu](http://theatre.ua.edu).***



# Alumni Spotlight

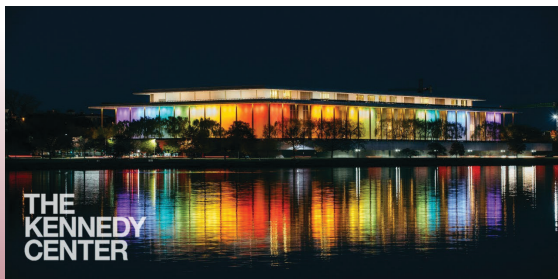


## Kathleen Hinman

Kathleen Hinman graduated from The University of Alabama in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and Film. While at UA Theatre and Dance, Hinman was a part of Alpha Psi Omega and was a Stage Manager for our department. Her journey since graduating has been incredible and shows just how the department sets its students up for success across the fine arts. Upon graduating Hinman first joined the cast at Walt Disney World Resort as a photographer. She also worked at Universal Studios as an escort for performers and characters. Not long after that, she used the skills of being a ticket office practicum student at UA and began working for Arena Stage, in the box office. While at Arena Stage, she also worked in administration at other theatres in the D.C. area including the Wolly Mammoth Theatre Company and The National Theatre. In 2015, she joined the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as an Assistant Treasurer. She has worked at the Kennedy Center since 2015, giving her the opportunity to grow in one of the largest arts organizations in the world.

In addition to her full-time work, Hinman also serves as the Treasurer for the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). As a member and leader of this union, Hinman has been able to remain fully employed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asked what advice Hinman has for the current students in the Department of Theatre and Dance, she said, “Don’t be afraid if your path leads you in a different direction, the end result will be completely worth it.”



# Spring 2022 Season

## Allen Bales Theatre

*The Colored Museum*

January 31-February 6

*Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*

March 28-April 3

## Marian Gallaway Theatre

*Legally Blonde*

April 13-15, 21-24

## Dance Theatre

*Alabama Repertory Dance Theatre*

March 2-5

*Dance Alabama!*

March 30-April 2

*Dance Collection*

April 22

ARDT, Fall 2021  
Photo by Porfirio Solorzano



# Faculty & Staff

## Chair of

### Theatre and Dance

**SARAH M. BARRY**

Contemporary/Choreography

### Administrative Staff

**NANCY CALVERT**

Office Associate Sr.

**CINDY FRANKS**

Administrative Secretary

## Acting

**SETH PANITCH**

Acting

**ALLISON HETZEL**

Acting/Voice

**KELLEY SCHOGGER**

Acting/Stage Movement

**CHRISTIAN TRIPP**

Acting

## History/Playwriting

**MISHA HADAR**

Theatre History

## Directing/Stage

### Management

**MATT DAVIS**

Directing/Stage Management

## Dance

**LAWRENCE M. JACKSON**

Associate Chair of Dance

Jazz/Contemporary

**QIANPING GUO**

Ballet

**BRYANT HENDERSON-SHAE**

Modern/Jazz

**DR. FEN KENNEDY**

Dance History/Choreography

**LYNDELL T. MCDONALD**

Lighting/Sound Design

**AIDAN S. NETTLES**

Modern/Jazz

**JAMORRIS RIVERS**

Dance History/Choreography

**REBECCA SALZER**

Dance/Technology

**RITA SNYDER**

Ballet/Anatomy

**TIFFANY YEAGER**

Costume Design

## Arts Management

**WILLIAM GANTT**

Patron Services Mgr.

**DOMINIC YEAGER**

Associate Chair of Theatre

Arts Management

## Musical Theatre

**STACY ALLEY**

Musical Theatre Dance

**DR. LUVADA HARRISON**

Vocal Instruction

**HENRY LEWERS**

Musical Theatre

**DR. WILLIAM A. MARTIN**

Director of Vocal Instruction

**ALVON REED**

Musical Theatre Dance

## Design & Production

**F. RANDY DECELLE**

Production Manager

**CAMI HUEBERT**

Costume Technology

**JEANETTE LACKEY**

Scenery Studio Supervisor

**DONNA MEESTER**

Costume Design/Production

**SOLEDAD SANCHEZ**

Scenic Design

**MATT REYNOLDS**

Lighting/Sound Design

**TODD ROBERTS**

Costume Shop Mgr.

**MATTHEW STRATTON**

Technical Direction



# Scholarship Contribution

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

Allen Bales Memorial Fund  
Dianne Baker  
Barbara S. Britton  
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  
James E. Hedgespeth Jr.

Linda L. & Robert Shumilas  
Julia & Ed Williams

Stacy K. Young

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

James Atkinson  
Mary & Bill Battle  
Joan Barth & David Boles  
John J. Burke Jr. & Mary K.  
Burke

Erin Dewillis  
(for student group)  
Carole C. Guy  
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Hailey  
(parents of Eric M. Hailey)

Lori Hunt & Stephen Hunt  
Fran & Jack Jecen  
Dr. & Mrs. Michael J. Mendle  
Dianne & William C. Teague

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

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Benson  
Larry J. Bowen  
Ian Brown & Nancy  
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Christine Dietsch  
Barbara Durrence  
Anne Game  
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Stacy Hall  
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Renee Johnson  
Karen Julian

Kappa Delta Sorority  
Maureen & Lawrence Kohl  
Leslie T. Kleine  
April Landin  
Linda & John Lochman  
Robert L. Loftin  
Lena P. McDonald  
& Lyndell T. McDonald  
Camille Mendle  
(in loving memory  
of Anne Lever)  
James P. Merrill  
Barbara Millwee  
Angie Murdock  
Nichole O'Brien  
Ellen Odom

Drs. Linda & Terry Olivet  
Lisa Pawloski  
Jill & Michael D. Picone  
Janet & Norvin Richards  
Kristen A. Rowse  
Jeramie L. Simmons  
Laura Smith  
Patricia & Richard Snow  
Marissa Swanner  
Alice Taylor  
Erika G. Walker  
Jennifer Weske  
Michelle & Thomas H.  
Williams  
Robert Wright  
Wesley A. Young

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

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Patricia Alfin  
Maximiliano  
Cabrera Arevalo  
Patrice Arnold  
Joe Benson  
Paula Berry  
Kelly Bond  
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Breland Jr.  
Heather Briggs  
Derrick Brown  
Emma Brown  
Cindy Calhoun  
Corinne Calhoun  
Jerome Cargill  
Shelly Carr  
Beth Chapman  
Sarah Chappell  
Zachary  
Colantrello  
Harper Coleman  
Sandra B. Connor  
Danielle Correro  
Claire Craig

Ellie Craven  
Christine  
Crowther  
Gabrielle  
Cruz-Uribe  
Stephane Curtis  
Anita Daily  
Emma Dean  
Tammy Dean  
Shaeffer Diebolt  
Dr. Rona J.  
Donahoe  
Tammy Dran  
Emma Dykes  
Mary Easley  
Dawson Estes  
Cody Floyd  
Lee Freeman  
Alison George  
Mr. Todd Gray  
Lana Hagan  
Austin Hanover  
Ned Hart  
Jessica Hatfield

James E.  
Hedspeth  
John Heins  
Daniel  
Henderson  
Caroline Hill  
Lexi Hivner  
Brandon Hobbs  
Kym Hoffmann  
Vicki Holt  
Lindsay Howard  
Patricia Hubbs  
Alaina Jones  
Jeanne Kemp  
Bethany Knight  
Lisa Kuchuk  
Mariam Lane  
Lauren Leverett  
Barbara Loflin  
Michael Lynch  
Michael  
Malinconico  
Sherry McColgin  
Neil F. McColgin  
Utz McKnight

Mary Meares  
Amanda Medlin  
Ann Meeker  
Jerry Mims  
Nancy R.  
Minkler  
Miriam Lane  
Tammy Mixon  
Charolotte  
Mustard  
Teagan  
Nabity-Grover  
Matthew Nash  
Marie Nearing  
Ana Nettles  
Arie Nettles  
Gary Pacos  
Laura Pacos  
Maria Pacos  
Kim Palm  
Cassandra Pierce  
Morgan Potts  
Dalton Pridmore  
Stephanie Puffer  
George Rable

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Richardson  
Liz Richardson  
Liz Savage  
Kelly Schoger  
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Front Cover - *ARDT*, Fall 2021

Back Cover - *Pippin*, Porfirio Solorzano