A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR:
Dr. Laurie J. Wolf

Welcome to the new face of William & Mary Theatre and Dance! As we begin our first term of social distancing and new regulations, we also begin our first virtual theatre season. By adapting to the pandemic and current COVID-19 conditions, we are still able to bring the students and community the best of W&M Theatre and Dance. Stay tuned for our Spring lineup, announced later this year!

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that, as a department founded almost solely by white academics and artists, Theatre, Speech and Dance has not always been sensitive to the systemic harms endemic to the theatre community that have created racist and inequitable environments. While we are addressing these inequities, we must continue to confront our own unconscious biases and to unlearn practices and undo policies that contribute to this inequality. We have learned that being neutral or “not racist” is, by default, a way to uphold racism. In order to entirely realize our mission to be fully inclusive, we must be actively anti-racist. This work is never done, and we are in it for the long haul.

We are looking forward to seeing you in class, in rehearsal and in performance. Classes and productions will look different, but the Department of Theatre, Speech and Dance remains committed to supporting and empowering the education and creative expression of all our students and colleagues. Together, we will make theatre.

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*W&M Theatre and Dance is committed to upholding and maintaining COVID-19 safety and distancing protocols.
CITIZEN: An American Lyric
by Claudia Rankine
Adapted for the stage by: Stephen Sachs
Streaming Sept. 17-20
Directed by: Alise Larder

THE STORY: A searing, poetic riff on race in America, fusing prose, poetry, movement, music, and the visual image. Snapshots, vignettes, on the acts of everyday racism. Some of these encounters are slights, seeming slips of the tongue, and some are intentional offenses. Those did-that-really-just-happen-did-they-really-just-say-that slurs that happen every day and enrage in the moment and later steep poisonously in the mind. And, of course, those larger incidents that become national or international firestorms. As Rankine writes, “This is how you are a citizen.”

The New Black Fest’s HANDS UP
Streaming Oct. 29-Nov. 1
Directed by: Amanda L. Andrei, S. Lewis Feemster, Omiyemi (Artisia) Green, Keaton Hillman, Claire Pamment, Elizabeth Wiley

THE STORY: In light of the police shootings of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and John Crawford III in Beavercreek, Ohio, among others, The New Black Fest commissioned seven emerging Black playwrights to write 10-15 minute monologues that explore their feelings about the well-being of Black people in a culture of systemic racism. Raw, passionate, and deeply personal; these reflections examine the civic discord around equity and civil rights that continues in today’s global protests incited by the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and so many more.

Reaching Out and Leaning In, the first of four William & Mary Dance concerts presented in the 2020-2021 season will showcase original works by William & Mary Dance Faculty, Joan Gavaler, Leah Glenn and Denise Damon Wade. This virtual concert will highlight an exciting, eclectic program performed by the Dance faculty, guest artists and members of Orchesis Modern Dance Company.

Oct. 1-4
Thurs-Sat: 7:30pm
Sun: 2pm

Nov. 5-8