Welcome to the Department of Theatre, Speech and Dance’s 2021/22 production season, our fourth year (or what would have been the fourth year, thanks to COVID) in the Kimball Theatre and certainly one of our more experimental seasons. I am excited to announce the lineup of our return to in-person performances.

The mainstage season is full of questions. The young women in Sarah DeLappe’s The Wolves question all that life continually throws at them, during warm-ups for their weekly soccer matches. Through the hypochondria of Argan, Molière’s The Imaginary Invalid questions the veracity of the medical profession, along with the philosophical accommodation to mortality. Aimé Césaire’s Une Tempête, or A Tempest interrogates matters of colonialism, racism, exploitation and violence in Shakespeare’s original play, and finally, our production of Stephen Sondheim and George Furth’s Company will question not only traditional casting, but also the very nature of love and relationships among a group of Millennials and Gen-Xers.

Our Dance productions continue this theme. DancEvent, for the first time, will take the form of a workshop and change its location, from the theatre to the Studio in Adair, and we will be allowed to see research that is currently in progress by the Dance faculty. In the spring, Orchesis members will create, choreograph and produce their own pieces on the Kimball stage, a culmination of their years of instruction.

Our second season has a full slate this year. Sinfonicron is taking on the vast and complex production of Camelot. After the success of last year, we are reprising the student production of Mosaic, the only show this year that will be streamed. And finally, in a joint production between Music and Theatre, we are presenting the premiere performance of an original musical by Music major, Paul Hardin, Spectacular. Set in sensational eighteenth-century France, Spectacular follows the intertwined stories of Nicolas, an aspiring playwright in Paris, and Leonor, a princess trapped in an arranged marriage.

We look forward to seeing you this season. As always, please be responsible and considerate of our students, faculty, staff and audience. We ask that you are masked throughout your time in the Kimball or Adair. We appreciate your adherence to the College’s guidelines on vaccinations and social distancing, please take advantage of the hand sanitation stations available, and respect the social distancing of the audience seating chart. And in addition to all of that, we hope you enjoy the shows!

Best Wishes,

Dr. Laurie J. Wolf
Theatre, Speech and Dance Dept. Chair
SECOND SEASON PERFORMANCES

DIRECTOR’S WORKSHOP ONE-ACTS

Talented students from the theatre department’s directing class present various works in this one-act workshop series.

Dec. 6-9, 2021

Sinfonicron Light Opera Company Presents:

CAMELOT

The legendary love triangle of King Arthur, Guenevere and Sir Lancelot leaps from the pages of T.H. White’s novel in Lerner and Loewe’s award-winning, soaring musical.

Jan. 28-30, 2022

MOSAIC

Mosaic brings together the best and brightest of the W&M Theatre and Dance department for an evening of song, dance, poetry and reflection. Featuring performances of published and original works, each student brings their unique perspective to the mosaic that is the Arts at W&M.

Streaming Feb. 2022

GET INVOLVED in Productions

W&M Music and Theatre Department’s Present a New Original Musical

SPECTACULAR

by Paul Hardin, ’22

Set in sensational eighteenth-century France, Spectacular follows the intertwined stories of Nicolas, an aspiring playwright in Paris, and Leonor, a princess trapped in an arranged marriage.

Apr. 8-10, 2022

MUSICAL THEATRE WORKSHOP: NINE

Book by Arthur Kopit
Music and Lyrics by Maury Yeston

Celebrated but impetuous film director Guido Contini, succumbing to the pressures of filming his latest film epic, suffers a midlife crisis. One by one, women from his past and present – including his mother, his wife, his mistress, and his leading lady – haunt, instruct, scold, seduce and encourage him until he finally learns to grow up.

May 4, 2022

GET INVOLVED in Productions

We invite students of any and all majors to participate in W&M Mainstage Productions

Students interested in production and design responsibilities, please contact the following:

- Matt Allar, mjalwar@wm.edu – scene painting, props, design assistant
- Patricia Wesp, pmwesp@wm.edu – costume construction, make-up, wardrobe crew, design assistant
- Steve Holliday, seholl@wm.edu – electrics, design assistant, stage management
- David Garrett, degarrett@wm.edu – set construction, design assistant
- Jessi DiPette, jdipette@wm.edu – Marketing and Publicity, House Management

Commitment to DIVERSITY

Department of Theatre, Speech and Dance aspires towards a broad spectrum of cultural and artistic diversity. 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 committed to an educational mission, a creative environment, and the making of productions that promote a lively engagement with, and between, differences of race, ethnicity, gender, faith, political and ideological perspectives, sexual orientation, social and economic status, (dis)ability and artistic disciplines. We aim to create a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for our students, faculty, staff, audiences and visitors.
THE WOLVES
by: Sarah DeLappe

Left quad. Right quad. Lunge. A girls indoor soccer team warms up. From the safety of their suburban stretch circle, the team navigates big questions and wages tiny battles with all the vim and vigor of a pack of adolescent warriors. A portrait of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for nine American girls who just want to score some goals.

Oct. 7-10, 2021

THE IMAGINARY INVALID
From the play by Molière

Molière’s final play, is a hilarious picture of the seventeenth-century where, despite the scientific revolution and its extraordinary advances, there was often a fine line between science and outright quackery.

Nov. 18-21, 2021

PERFORMANCES

A TEMPEST
by Aimé Césaire

A Tempest is a postcolonial revision of Shakespeare’s The Tempest which focuses on the plight of Ariel and Caliban and their never-ending quest to gain freedom from Prospero and his rule over the island. The play considers issues of racism, violence and exploitation, leaving the audience to consider the lasting effects of colonialism.

Mar. 3-6, 2022

AN EVENING OF DANCE
ft. Orchesis Modern Dance

An Evening of Dance is an annual concert in which students explore and develop original choreography performed by their peers in the Orchesis Modern Dance Company, under the mentorship of the Dance faculty.

Mar. 31-Apr. 3, 2022

COMPANY
Book by George Furth
Music & Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

On the night of their 35th birthday, confirmed singleton, Bobbi, contemplates their unmarried state. Over the course of a series of dinners, drinks and even a wedding, their friends explain the pros and cons of taking on a spouse. The habitually single Bobbi is forced to question their retention of the single life during a hilarious array of interactions.

Apr. 21-May 1, 2022

MAINSTAGE

DANCEEVENT
ft. Orchesis Modern Dance in Adair Studio

Dance faculty members will showcase original works performed by Orchesis modern dance company, featured guest artists, and the dance faculty themselves.

Oct. 29-31, 2021

AN EVENING OF DANCE
ft. Orchesis Modern Dance

An Evening of Dance is an annual concert in which students explore and develop original choreography performed by their peers in the Orchesis Modern Dance Company, under the mentorship of the Dance faculty.