ARTISTIC DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Human contact is the backbone of what we do in the theatre. We all miss being in the department.

But the global pandemic has challenged us to find new ways to create theatre and give our students the creative opportunities to develop and grow their unique talents. FIU Theatre has risen to that challenge.

Our students, faculty, and staff have been working overtime to adapt to the virtual environment, and in many ways, we are meeting the moment and creating more theatre than ever before. Fall 2020 at FIU Theatre is a testament to our collective ingenuity, intelligence, compassion, and spirit.

We are producing three virtual readings of some exciting and thought provoking plays THE MISS FIRECRACKER CONTEST, RADIUM GIRLS, and PIPELINE. We are also presenting three of last year’s solo performances that were unable to be staged when the university canceled all on campus activities last March. We finish our season with an original devised play created by the students of FIU Theatre.

Our designers and actors are getting opportunities to work on exciting material and use their creativity and imagination to create work in these unusual times. We are also excited to be able to keep our connection with you, our audience, and bring you plays that reflect our shared humanity.

Thank you for joining us this evening. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram for information on our future events and to see some behind the scenes content. Also check out our website, theatre.fiu.edu.

Be well,

Joel Murray, Ph.D.
Department Chair & Artistic Director
RADIUM GIRLS
By D.W. Gregory
directed by Rebecca Covey

CAST
Grace Fryer .......................................................... Samantha Morato
Arthur Roeder .......................................................... Sam Krogh
Kathryn, Madame Curie, Shopgirl ................................ Marla Lopez
Irene, Katherine Wiley, Board Member,
Mrs. Michaels .......................................................... Summre Rainer
Mrs. MacNeil, Sob Sister ........................................ Daniella Valdivieso
Von Sochocky, Elderly Widow, Photographer ........ Michael Leonardo
Reporter, Tom Kreider, Dr. Knef, Venecine Salesman ... Luigi Perez
Society Woman, Harriet Roeder, Clerk, Mrs. Fryer .... Gigi Umana
Charlie Lee, Dr. Drinker, Lovesick Cowboy,
Male Shopper, Judge .............................................. Alex Camacho
Edward Markley, Bailey, Finn .................................. Luis Diaz
Raymond Berry, Martland, Store Owner ................. Luis Avila
Mrs. Roeder, Customer, Board Member,
Dream Marie Curie .............................................. Shadya Muvdi

PRODUCTION TEAM
Stage Manager .......................................................... Kayla Almeida
Assistant Stage Manager ....................................... Charisma Jolly
Dramaturg ............................................................... Camila Klas
Scenic & Props Designer ........................................ Nathalie Soré
Costume & Makeup Design ..................................... Jhonny Mendoza
Lighting Designer .................................................... Kevin Sage
Sound Designer ........................................................ Sidney Lezcano
Editor ................................................................. Ivan Lopez
Assistant Scenic & Props Designer ......................... Alexandra Alberro
Assistant Costume & Make-up Designer .................. Julia Zayas
Lighting and Sound Faculty Advisor ....................... Tony Galaska
Scenic and Props Faculty Advisor ......................... Jennifer Ivey
Costume and Make-up Advisor ............................ Marina Pareja
Costume Shop Manager ......................................... K. Blair Brown
Technical Director .................................................. Chris Goslin
**DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

*Radium Girls* is a historical play with a modern message. We see in the play many of the same social and political forces that have come to light in our country’s response to this pandemic. One theme – “profit above people” we see as the company seeks to minimize the dangers of radium in order to keep making money, in the same way as our leaders seek to minimize the dangers of Covid-19 in order to keep making money. The theme of “Looking out for oneself” versus “caring for the greater good” is being played out as some insist that they shouldn’t have to wear a mask while others do mask up to protect others.

However, this is not just a play about selfishness and greed. *Radium Girls* celebrates the grit and passion of Grace Fryer, and women like her, who have fought against seemingly insurmountable odds to be SEEN. Grace refuses to remain another faceless victim. At a time when women had just won the right to vote, it is a group of women, led by Kathryn Wiley, who assert their clout and understanding of public opinion to create positive change. I hope we can all be inspired by these women’s stories to better understand our own time and the grit and determination required to set things right.

For me, this play is a reminder that we have a responsibility to each other. Only in honoring the humanity of all do we honor our own humanity. Our choices matter.

Everyone involved in this production threw themselves at bringing this story to light with dignity and imagination. I am impressed by the depths of truth and passion that the actors brought to their work in such a short time. I am equally impressed by the creativity of the designers as they forged ahead past all the obstacles to express their vision of the play. Thanks to all for their dedication.

- Rebecca Covey
The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
Last March, BFA Performance seniors were one week away from presenting their senior projects when the university canceled all on-campus activities due to the coronavirus. We invited them to return this semester to stage their solo performances. Shows will be performed on-stage in the Black Box, filmed, and streamed on YouTube. Don’t miss these shows about Tennessee Williams, Blackbeard, and Gary Gygax.

FIU THEATRE FACULTY

Phillip M. Church, Associate Professor
Rebecca Covey, Associate Professor
Tony Galaska, Associate Professor
Christopher Goslin, Associate Teaching Professor
Jennifer Ivey, Assistant Professor
Ivan R. Lopez, Assistant Teaching Professor
Daniel Mitani, Associate Teaching Professor
Joel Murray, Department Chair & Artistic Director
Stephen Neal, Assistant Teaching Professor
Marina Pareja, Assistant Professor
Lesley-Ann Timlick, Associate Professor
Pioneer Winter, Assistant Teaching Professor
Michael Yawney, Associate Professor

FIU Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST). We are a “limited access” program which means we are committed to keeping small class sizes. This keeps the student/faculty ratio low and the quality of pedagogy and production high. Our students and faculty are regularly recognized with regional and national awards by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) and our production are often invited to perform at the prestigious festival. Our graduates can be found at prestigious professional theatres, graduate programs, and in film and television. Visit us at theatre.fiu.edu for news, information on the program, and how you can contribute.