

FIU

Theatre

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

LYSISTRATA
by Aristophanes

theatre.fiu.edu

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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

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. The 2020-21 season at FIU Theatre is a testament to our collective ingenuity, intelligence, compassion, and spirit.

Last semester, we produced three full-length play readings, staged some of the solo projects that were canceled in April, and created five original devised plays created by the students of FIU Theatre – all in a virtual environment that was new to us. This semester we bring you two uniquely creative stagings of the ancient Greek comedy *Lysistrata* and Jose Rivera's lyrical *Sonnets for an Old Century*. After watching these plays, we are confident you will agree that FIU Theatre has once again risen to the challenge of the moment.

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

LYSISTRATA

By Aristophanes

directed by Phillip M. Church

edited by Kenessa Durrum

CAST

Lysistrata	Shadya Muvdi
Calonice	Katherine Galvez
Myrrhine.....	Gigi Umana
Stratyllis.....	Priscilla Montaño
Lampito.....	Emily Taylor-Madrid
Magistrate	Sam Krogh
Cinesias, Male Chorus	Luis Avila
Female Chorus, Reconciliation, Medea	Daniella Valdivieso
Female Chorus, Housewife	Camila Klas
Female Chorus, Officer.....	Maleeha Naseer
Male Chorus Leader	Cameron Holder
Male Chorus, Spartan Herald, Ambassador	Luigi Perez
Male Chorus, Horace, Negotiator, Diner 2	Alex Camacho
Prologue Narrator	Stephen Neal

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Chiara Jacobus
Scenic Designer	Josh Gibson
Costume Designer	Marina Pareja
Lighting Designer	Alex Ortiz
Sound Designer	Jaime Balladares
Props Master	Brooke Oteri
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Alexa Gutierrez, Charisma Jolly
Assistant Scenic Designer	Neena Davila
Assistant Costume Designer	Jhonny Mendoza
Choreographer	Cameron Holder
Costume Crew	Anthony Compere, Katherine Galvez, Luiza Gandra, Joshua Morales, Justin Santos, Christina Tsitouris
Props Crew	Lisandra Alonso, Pamela Cartwright, Carlos Garrido, Alexa Gutierrez, Cynthia Jose, Alize Medina, Vanessa Perea, Sofia Salgado, Tatiana Taylor, Juliana Velazquez
Lighting and Sound Faculty Advisor	Tony Galaska
Scenic and Props Faculty Advisor	Jennifer Ivey
Costume Shop Manager	K. Blair Brown
Technical Director	Chris Goslin
Guitar	Larry Misrahi

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It is no small irony that “land” and “country” are designated feminine nouns. *Lysistrata* is a pluralistic play featuring the violent acquisition of territories stemming from the Peloponnesian War mirrored by on-going, contested battles between men and women. At the end of the play “reconciliation” is embodied through a physical metaphor, that of a stunningly beautiful woman substituting for a map of the contested lands. That said there could be no better time to produce Aristophanes’ classical comedy than the present.

Written in 411 BC when Athens, once a powerhouse to the world, was experiencing its darkest time. Aristophanes drew his audience’s attention, not only to the critical need to end the division and carnage that existed between Athens and Sparta but also to champion equality between the sexes. Like Shakespeare Aristophanes was a writer before his time. *Lysistrata* is the last in a trilogy of “peace plays”, his other two being *The Archarnians* and *The Clouds*. Perhaps society was listening (and watching) for Aristophanes’ voice was given notable attention at the highly competitive Festival Dionysus traditionally held between January and March.

This present streamed production, nestled in the middle, is something of a tribute to that great festival. While themes of war and peace remain central to his message Aristophanes reminds us what important roles comedy and laughter can play toward the healing process. The ability to step back and smile at our-selves is an effective prescription toward full health. One is reminded of the moment, in Disney’s *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* when the Dwarfs set off to work singing “Hi-ho! Hi-Ho!”, gaily whistling their way to work with idealistic abandon. They really seem to have a sense of purpose. One would hope that such early reinforcing images would have a lasting effect throughout the years staving off the instinct to turn to division to solve our problems. More especially to lift us up above in our own dark times of pandemic and unemployment.

– Phillip M. Church



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.

UP NEXT

FIU | Theatre

SONNETS FOR AN OLD CENTURY

by Jose Rivera

April 2-4, 2021

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 Mitan, 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.