

We S.O.A.R.:

STUDENT ORIGINAL ARTS REPERTORY



3.14–16 @ 7:30 / 3.17 @ 2

ROGER GLASS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Experimental Theatre

Nightly Show Order

Thursday, March 14th

Pathways to Connectivity
UDDE's Blanca & Verta
The Divide: a dance film
Kate Moreira senior capstone

Friday, March 15th

UDDE's A Touch of Zen
The Divide: a dance film
Kate Moreira senior capstone
Emma Symank senior capstone
UDDE's Blanca & Verta
Emily Bryan senior capstone

Saturday, March 16th

Change on the Rise
The Divide: a dance film
UDDE's Blanca & Verta
Emily Bryan senior capstone
Emma Symank senior capstone

Sunday, March 17th

UDDE's A Touch of Zen
The Divide: a dance film
Pathways to Connectivity
UDDE's Blanca & Verta
The Roads

UDDE's A Touch of Zen (March 15th & 17th)

UDDE presents a dance piece that intertwines the ethereal grace of contemporary dance with the rich tapestry of Chinese tradition, giving rise to a transcendent narrative that encapsulates the profound essence of cross-cultural communion.

Choreography: Kisa Li

Music: “明王咒” by 西皮士 and “breathe.” by Travis Lake

Lighting Design: Ben Remke

Dancers: Nadine Ayers, Celia Ball, TJ Brunello, Simon Didat, Haleigh Gross, Alaina Imboden, Sophie Mock, Taryn Tucker and Ella Widau

UDDE's Blanca and Verta (March 14th - 17th)

Blanca and Verta is a tale of the snake sisters from Chinese mythology, who descend to earth in pursuit of becoming human. They want to experience both the suffering, and the lust of life.

Choreography: Kisa Li

Music: “2046 main theme (rumba version)” by Shigeru Umebayashi

Lighting Design: Ben Remke

Dancers: Cast A (March 14th & 16th): Nadine Ayers and Haleigh Gross

Cast B (March 15th & 17th): TJ Brunello and Taryn Tucker

Pathways to Connectivity (March 14th & 17th)

Common Good Players & Reentry Guest Artists explore the relationship between our life stories that shape us and the connections that heal us.

Devised by the Ensemble

Developed, Scripted, and Directed by Michelle Hayford

Lighting Design: Ben Remke

Sound Design: Sarah Theewis

Cast: Leroy Bean, Shareka Gibson, Takia High, Anna Kopsick, Achille Kpeya, Trinity Rice, Henry Riesbeck, Amelia Tortorici, Jada Gee, Jamie Gee, Michelle Hayford (Playback Theatre conductor)

Research credits: What Happened to You? Conversations on trauma, resilience, and healing, by Bruce D. Perry, MD and PhD, and Oprah Winfrey

The Journey from Abandonment to Healing: Surviving through and recovering from the five stages that accompany the loss of love by Susan Anderson

“What would God have you do” is inspired by Elizabeth Gilbert’s “Letters from Love” project on substack:

<https://elizabethgilbert.substack.com/p/letters-from-love-with-special-guest-28e>

“A Shelter in the Time of Storm” by Vernon J. Charlesworth and arranged by Ira D. Sankey

Brain image creator: Sebastian Groteloh, in Moeller K, Willmes K and Klein E (2015) A review on functional and structural brain connectivity in numerical cognition. Front. Hum. Neurosci. 9:227. doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2015.00227

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.en>

Emma Symank senior capstone (March 15th & 16th)

A comedic walkthrough of growing up and figuring it out.

Developed, Scripted, and Performed by Emma Symank

Lighting Design: Ben Remke and Sarah Theewis

Kate Moreira senior capstone (March 14th & 15th)

Serendipity is about the journey of self-discovery, the impact our friendships have on who we become, and how we carry ourselves from one experience to the next.

Choreography: Kate Moreira

Music: “The Wind That Circles Us” by Sophie Hutchings, “Experience” by I Virtuoso Italiani & Daniel Hope, and “Serendipity” by Laufey

Lighting Design: Ben Remke

Dancers: Celia Ball, Emily Bryan, Madeline Brisken, Haleigh Gross, McKenna Hoefsmit, Kate Moreira and Ella Widau

Change on the Rise (March 16th)

A story about working to exact change in society and in our lives, and the impact of working together for that change.

Choreography: Kate Moreira

Music: “Change on the Rise” - Avi Kaplan

Lighting Design: Amy Schiffler

Dancers: Celia Ball, Madeline Brisken, Haleigh Gross and McKenna Hoefsmit

The Roads (March 17th)

How do the people we love push us forward while simultaneously holding us back?

Choreography: Celia Ball, Madeline Brisken, Haleigh Gross, and Kate Moreira

Music: “The Roads” - Jonah Kagen

Lighting Design: Ben Remke

Dancers: Nadine Ayers, Celia Ball, Madeline Brisken, Emily Bryan, Simon Didat, Haleigh Gross, Alaina Imboden, and Kate Moreira

Emily Bryan senior capstone (March 15th & 16th)

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me is a navigation of the feelings of leaving behind those you love while moving on to a new life, and My Cry For Help is an exploration of depression and the powerful impact it has on the human soul.

Choreography: Emily Bryan

Music: “Van Gogh” by Virginio Aiello & On Piano, “De Selby (Part 1)” by Hozier, “Path 5 (delta)” by Max Ritcher and “Our Final Mission” by Christoffer Moe Ditlevsen

Lighting Design: Ben Remke

Dancers: Celia Ball, Madeline Brisken, Emily Bryan, Haleigh Gross, McKenna Hoefsmit, and Kate Moreira

Note from the TDP Student Board of Artistic Directors

We SOAR has been a collaboration between students from a variety of majors and programs and members of our own Dayton community. Each piece reflects the diverse perspectives and passions of our student artists, each contributing to a collective narrative that champions positive change and social impact. The Student Board of Artistic Directors has enjoyed watching this production come to life over the past few months. We would like to thank our faculty, students, and guest artists for their time and effort to put together this show.

Anna Kopsick, Kate Moreira, and Ben Remke



Photos taken by Ben Remke

Notes from Our Directors

Emily Bryan

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

This piece was inspired by the effects that grief and loss have had in both my life and those around me. Saying goodbye is a difficult process, but this piece reflects on the beauty of life and all it has to offer. Where words have failed to form, movement has offered an outlet equally as comforting. I would like to dedicate this piece to my loving grandpa who passed away last spring.

My Cry For Help

This piece considers an individual's journey in struggling with mental health. For everyone else, life seems to go on; however, depression can impede on a person's perspective of the world. In times when we are struggling and the simplest task seems impossible, our support system can help uplift us. Throughout my time at the University of Dayton, I have developed a passion for advocating for mental health. In this piece I want to share the message that no one is alone and there is always time to ask for help.

Michelle Hayford

I've long wanted to work with the Office of Reentry and offer theatre as a healing artform to those who have been through the trauma of incarceration. As an applied theatre practitioner, I'm creating at the intersection of theatre and social justice by working with community partners in artistic practices that have a purpose. I founded the Common Good Players in 2019 to create original theatre with and for community partners to serve our communities. The UD students who perform with the Common Good Players are dedicated to their craft and committed to taking action for the common good. UD is the University for the Common Good and calls on all in our community to learn, lead, and serve. The Montgomery County Office of Reentry motto of "action, alliance, and accountability" resonates with the Common Good Players ethos to advocate for others by creating experiences that perform our interdependence and responsibility to promote healing in our communities. This collaboration between the Common Good Players, Reentry guest artists, and spoken word poet and teacher Leroy Bean, demonstrates the power of storytelling in diverse communities utilizing our own stories told through the methods of Theatre of the Oppressed and Playback Theatre.

Michelle Hayford, PhD

Associate Professor of Theatre

Director, Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology program

More about Theatre of the Oppressed:

Developed by Brazilian actor and political activist Augusto Boal in the 1950's, Theatre of the Oppressed is a method of theatre-making that enables the participants to imagine and perform a more just world by aligning with all who are oppressed and inspiring critical recognition and accountability through performance.

More about Playback Theatre:

Developed in 1975 by Jonathan Fox and Jo Salas as a theatre form derived from improvisation, storytelling, psychodrama, and Paulo Friere's pedagogy of the oppressed, Playback Theatre performs stories shared by audience members on the spot. Playback Theatre is a powerful exercise in deep listening, empathy, connection, and resonance for audience and performers alike.

Kisa Li

As you experience our performance, I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the rich tapestry of movement, rhythm, and emotion that we've meticulously woven together. UD Dance Ensemble presents more than just a dance; it's a living narrative, an artistic journey that invites audiences to witness the inclusive and transformative power of cross-cultural exchange in the dance. These dances are about the article I'm writing: "An Autoethnography: Teaching Chinese Contemporary Dance as a Catalyst for Inclusive Dance Studies". We hope that you will find inspiration, joy, and a renewed appreciation for the beauty of human connection as you witness the transformative power of movement.

Kate Moreira

Serendipity

The people I met and memories I made over the past four years have taught me the importance of love. Most significantly, I found love in my friends. The ones I dance and create with, praise God with, and the ones who laugh with me until we cry. They are my support system, and I would not have figured out who I am without them. I wanted my capstone to show just how much they impacted me, so I choreographed a piece about love. "Serendipity" is dedicated to my friends, my loves.

Change on the Rise

This piece is for everybody who has fought for an idea, a belief, a person, a hope, or a dream. You are never alone in your journey, and it is okay to turn to others for support. It is only by working together that we can realize change in our lives and the lives of others.

The Roads

This piece is a collaborative work, choreographed with the help of the ensemble. The purpose of this work is to give everyone a chance to contribute to the final product. "The Roads" is about relationships, both good and bad, and that one person you keep coming back to.

Emma Symank

This is a series of originally written comedic monologues performed as a cohesive story. These are short stories and monologues that have been written at some point in the last 4 years and they are finally being polished and performed. My hopes are that the audience enjoys themselves and gets to know me a little better.

The Divide: a dance film

This film sheds light on disproportionate mental healthcare resources between wealthy and impoverished populations.

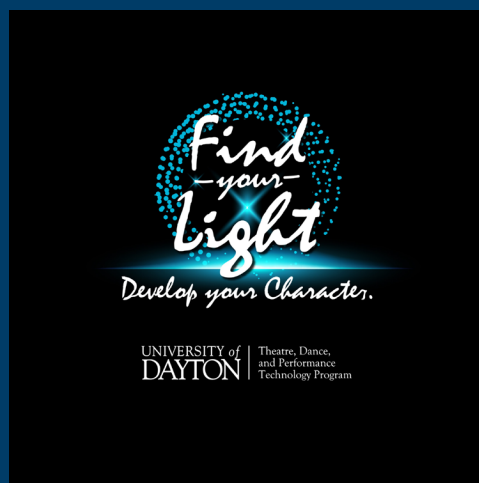
Music: “the divide” by Wyatt Jordan

Dance Film Credits

Producer	-	Kisa Li
Director	-	Ryley Goles
Executive Producer	-	Theatre, Dance, & Performance Technology program
Lead Cast	-	Taryn Tucker and Ella Widau
Supporting Cast	-	Nadine Ayers, TJ Brunello, Simon Didat, Haleigh Gross, Alaina Imboden, Sophie Mock, and Kate Moreira
Director of Photography	-	Kisa Li and Raymond Railey
Choreographers	-	Nadine Ayers and Haleigh Gross
Production Designer	-	Noah Denney
Editors	-	Haleigh Gross and Raymond Railey
Costume, Hair, and Makeup Design	-	Megan Britsch
Music Composer	-	Wyatt Jordan
First Assistant Director	-	Noah Denney and Mackenzie Grzegorzewski
Second Assistant Director	-	Nadine Ayers and Noah Denney
Production Assistant	-	Anna Kopsick
Key Grip	-	Rachel Robinson
Gaffer	-	Noah Denney
Lighting Design	-	Ben Remke

Full Production Credits

Producer	-	Dr. Michelle Hayford
Creators and Choreographers	-	Emily Bryan, Dr. Michelle Hayford, Kisa Li, Kate Moreira, and Emma Symank
TDP Student Board of Artistic Directors	-	Anna Kopsick, Kate Moreira, and Ben Remke
Scenic Design	-	Rachel Robinson
Costume Design	-	Chloe Cappuccilli
Technical Direction	-	Eric Moore
Lighting Design	-	Ben Remke
Stage Manager, Sound Design, and Assistant Lighting Design	-	Sarah Theewis
Calling Stage Manager	-	Amy Schiffler
Graphic Design	-	Carly Delois
Production and Program Coordinator	-	Teejai Dorsey
A-1	-	Sarah Theewis
Fire Watch	-	Teejai Dorsey
Stagehands	-	Jake Hausler and Raymond Railey
Costume Crew	-	Victoria Brey, Megan Knapke, Erin Pinto, and Kate Tucker
Student Theatre Technicians	-	Jacob Cristofaro, Jake Hausler, Daphne Lausferweiler, Kate Moreira, Raymond Railey, Ben Remke and Amy Schiffler



Meet the Cast



Nadine Ayers is a freshman at the University of Dayton from Kettering, Ohio. She is pursuing dual degrees in Theatre, Dance and Performance Technology with a concentration in Dance and Health and Wellness. Nadine was a competitive dancer for 11 years and received her dance instruction at Funk Lab Dance Center and Modern Elements in Kettering, Ohio. Nadine is trained in hip hop, breaking, popping, jazz funk, contemporary, tumbling, pom, and other dance styles. Her favorite style is hip hop. Nadine is a hip hop and pom dance instructor and competition choreographer. This is her first year on the UD Dance Ensemble and she is also a member of Life Itself Dance. She loves being at UD.



Celia Ball is a second-year student from Cincinnati, Ohio majoring in Health Science with a focus in Exercise and Movement Science. She is pursuing minors in Dance and Psychology and has 7 years of dance experience. She is also a member of Life Itself Dance and Pre-Physical Therapy Club, and she instructs pilates and Swerk group fitness classes at the UD RecPlex. She has previously worked with UD Dance Ensemble, most recently for last semester's production of *Unearthly Shadows*. She is honored to be a part of these projects and would like to thank her friends and family for their love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!



Leroy Bean is a Dayton native who has been a professional poet since 2014. Mental health, identity, and philosophy are heavy influences that inform his work, especially speaking to Black males to exemplify the power of agency over your narrative. He spent his developmental years in the Midwest spoken word scene honing his craft, eventually extending past his region and recently internationally to Paris, France.



Madeline Brisken is a junior studying Mechanical Engineering and Theater, Dance, and Performance Technology who loves all styles of dance, especially contemporary and jazz. Since coming to UD, Madeline has been involved in the UD Dance Ensemble, Life Itself Dance, Catholic LIFE, Campus Ministry retreat leadership, and Marianist Student Communities. She would like to thank all her friends and mentors who have been a part of her dance journey as well as family and parents for encouraging her to pursue all her passions. All glory to God!



TJ Brunello is a freshman from Dayton, Ohio, pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree with a minor in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology. TJ has been dancing for 16 years. TJ was also a part of her high school dance company as well as dancing in her high school's musicals and was part of the choreography team for the productions. She is trained in Jazz, Pom, Hip-Hop, Ballet, Contemporary, Modern and many other dance styles. TJ danced competitively with the Centerville Coeds for 14 years and has won many awards for both dance and choreography. This is TJ's first performance with the UD Dance Ensemble, and is excited to pursue even more dance opportunities in the UD Dance Ensemble. She currently is a small group coach and choreographer for youth girls.



Emily Bryan is a senior at the University of Dayton pursuing a dual-degree in Pre-Medicine and Dance with a minor in Neuroscience. She is currently a second company dancer at Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. She was a dance artist with UD Dance Ensemble from 2020 – 2023. She served as guest artist with Onyx Contemporary Dance Company (OCDC) as a performer and guest choreographer in which her work “When A Heart Opens” was presented at OCDC’s fall (2022) and spring (2023) repertory concert and Regional Dance America Festival. Her most recent work ”How Do You Find The Light” was performed at OCDC’s spring repertory concert this past February. Emily has taught at Dance Expressions, Miami Valley Dance Company, and The Arts Center.



Simon Didat is from Indianapolis, Indiana, and is a first-year Law student. This is his second year with UD Dance Ensemble. Simon began dancing a few years ago, and started taking classes at DanceWorks Indy in Summer 2022. He danced in musicals in high school (including The Drowsy Chaperone and Bye Bye Birdie), performed many styles of dance with Life Itself Dance, and was in Memoirs last spring with UDDE and DCDC2.



Jada S. Gee is an actor, singer, songwriter, and vocal percussionist. She is a University of Dayton alum with a B.A. in Theatre concentrated in Applied Theatre and a minor in Psychology. She’s been in a variety of UD productions and has served as a teaching artist/ youth instructor for several local summer camps. She wants to expand her education and aspires to be a Licensed Drama Therapist. She is happy to be working with UD and enjoys collaborating with her mother, Jamie Gee, and her former professors and peers.



Jamie Gee, Reentry Community Manager for the Montgomery County Office of Reentry, has over 34 years experience in the Criminal Justice & Reentry arena. She has a personal adoration for theatre, acapella music, and praise team ministry. As a UD/ TDP community partner, volunteer, and dedicated mother to Jada Gee (23’ UD alumni & We SOAR campaign video artist) she is using her talents to support guest artists, who believe in transforming obstacles into opportunities.



Shareka Gibson, born and raised in Dayton, Ohio, is a Biological Science graduate from Wright State University, and holds a Masters of Education from Antioch University. Shareka’s passion is nestled in educating youth and she is currently working as a high school science teacher serving at-risk youth in the Dayton area. Shareka has very little acting/theater experience, however has a great appreciation for all that it entails and is excited about tonight’s performance. Shareka has also had a long lasting relationship with the Reentry Center as a graduate of Montgomery County Reentry program in 2016

and involvement in several networking events. She would like to thank her husband and children for their support during her new theatrical journey as well as all of her family and friends that are attending today. She hopes that the show provides everyone with a new perspective and encourages someone to be a new reentry advocate.



Haleigh Gross is from Vandalia, Ohio and is pursuing a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Dance and Psychology. This is her second year dancing with the UD Dance Ensemble and she has 18 years of dance experience as a whole. Last spring Haleigh had the honor to dance with Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2 for the show Memoirs and recently completed her first professional dance contract with Matt Davenport Productions at the end of the summer. Haleigh also serves as a teacher, coach, and choreographer at Dance Expressions Dance Studio and an adjudicator with Showcase America Unlimited Dance Competition.



Takia High, is excited to take the stage as a guest artist, community volunteer/advocate and a dedicated mother. She aspires to develop a youth focused non-profit to provide healthy and safe spaces of connection and support in effort to supply some of their basic needs through adverse times. Her vision was presented through the 21st Montgomery County Office of Reentry “REACH” Entrepreneur Program and Pitch Competition, of which she claimed the top prize. She leads with a heart of compassion and empathy.



McKenna Hoefsmit is a junior from Cleveland, Ohio majoring in psychology with a minor in criminal justice. She has spent 15 years training as a dancer in the styles of ballet, jazz, and contemporary. McKenna has a passion for the theatre and has been in performances such as Newsies (Saint Joseph Academy), The Sound of Music (The University of Dayton), and Chess (Near West Theatre). You may have also seen her in various ballets at the Beck Center such as The Nutcracker, Coppelia, and Sleeping Beauty. McKenna is so excited to dance with some of her peers and bring her skills to the stage in this production.



Alaina Imboden is from Bethel Township, Ohio and is a first-year Sociology and Women and Gender Studies major through the UD Sinclair Academy. She is involved in the UD Dance Ensemble and is a member of the Javanese Gamelan Ensemble at University of Dayton. They are a member of the Honors Scholars Program at Sinclair Community College. Alaina’s first performance with UD was Unearthly Shadows. They have been involved in many productions at Bethel High School and Middle School from performing on stage, choreographing, and being a lighting technician. Alaina danced at Center Stage Academy for 15 years.



Anna Kopsick is a senior Psychology and Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology (Concentration: Applied Theatre) double major! Though she has performed in UD Mainstage productions, Anna’s true love is the Common Good Players, where she is able to explore the synthesis of applied theatre, drama therapy, and psychological concepts. Outside of TDP, Anna is part of the St. Vincent DePaul Behavioral Activation Program, where she is currently researching awe in shelter settings. She will be beginning her PsyD in Clinical Psychology at Wright State University (Go Raiders!) in August, and is

excited to begin the journey of becoming a clinical psychologist! She hopes to become the first DIRFloortime-certified psychologist in the state of Ohio, and to continue raising awareness for the importance of drama therapy and therapeutic theory.



Achille Kpeya Jr. is a second-year student and a Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology major from St. Louis Missouri. This past fall semester, Achille got the opportunity to perform in his first full production as Mastiff in *The Moors*, co-produced by TDP and Magnolia Theatre Company. Last spring semester, Achille was asked to join Common Good Players and performed for the very first time in the We Soar campaign launch event in the Arcade. Ever since joining TDP, Achille has been able to discover more about himself while participating in a craft that he's always been intrigued by but never took the chance to actually try. So far, he's loved everything that has come about and is eagerly looking forward to experiencing more during his time here at UD.



Sophie Mock is a junior at University of Dayton pursuing a major in AYA Education. She has been a dancer for fifteen years, and is trained competitively in multiple styles such as tap, jazz, ballet, and contemporary. She spent her freshman and sophomore year at The Ohio State University where she performed with a ballet club in productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Cinderella*. This is her first performance with the UD Dance Ensemble and she is so excited to perform and be a part of this semester's show. She would like to thank her family for their support in her education and in her dance journey.



Kate Moreira is a senior at the University of Dayton pursuing a dual-degree in Biology and Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology with a concentration in dance. She is a member of the Life Itself Dance, the University Honors Program, Pre-Physical Therapy Club, and works as a Supplemental Instructor. Kate has been dancing for sixteen years, learning styles such as ballet, jazz, modern, contemporary, and hip hop. She has performed with the UD Dance Ensemble in *E-Motion*, *Dancing in the Light*, *Memoirs*, and *Unearthly Shadows*. She would like to thank her amazing cast, directors, designers, and administrators for their hard work and dedication. And of course, she hopes you enjoy the show!



Trinity Le'shae Rice is a soprano in her second year at the University of Dayton, studying music performance and theater. Before attending the University of Dayton, she graduated with an Associate's degree from Sinclair Community College's music program. After achieving her Bachelor's degree in vocal performance she plans to pursue graduate school. Trinity is a Dayton native who loves to sing in a diverse number of genres, including classical, gospel, R&B, and musical theater. She has been performing in various choirs and ensembles for fourteen years and singing as a soloist for eleven years. Trinity is a member of the University of Dayton's Chorale, Opera Workshop, World Music Choir, and the Common Good Players. Outside of school, she sings in Phillip's Temple Mass Choir, the Youth/Young Adult Choir, and participates as a worship leader in jail ministry. Some of her favorite past roles include Bertha Hunt in Sinclair Community College's production of *The Hello Girls* and Annabeth Chase in Sinclair's production of *The Lightning Thief*. She is ecstatic to be sharing her gift with you all!
Proverbs 18:16



Henry Riesbeck is a first-year, Theatre, Dance & Performance Technology major. This is his second show at UD! He has been in theatre since the fourth grade, playing a part in every school show he could be in since then. He is extremely excited to have joined Common Good Players, it's showed him so many more ways to love others and grow his love of life. He'd like to thank his family for getting him to this point and his friends for always cheering him on.



Emma Symank is a Theatre, Dance, & Performance Technology major with a concentration in Acting. She's been a part of several productions at UD including The Sound of Music, Dido and Aeneas, Unearthly Shadows, and UD studio theatre monologues. This upcoming spring she'll be understudying for Jesus and Uzo in Godspell. Emma will be graduating in the fall and moving to Chicago where she hopes to pursue acting and comedy.



Amelia Tortorici is a freshman from Lombard, Illinois. She is pursuing a major in AYA Social Studies with a minor in Theatre, Dance & Performance Technology. Amelia has been involved in theater for about ten years and has loved every second. This is her second production with the University of Dayton and she has had a great experience meeting new people and learning a lot through the process. This production has been a new and exciting adventure. She was in The Moors (Marjory/Mallory) this past November with the University of Dayton. Her recent roles outside of Dayton include Reno Sweeney (Anything Goes), Catherine (Proof), Abby Binder (Ripcord), Beatrice (Much Ado About Nothing), Lucy (You're a Good Man Charlie Brown), and Margie Walsh (Good People). Outside of the theater, Amelia is found singing, studying, and scrapbooking! She would like to thank her family and friends for being a never-ending source of support and love. Amelia hopes you enjoy the show!



Taryn Tucker is a senior, majoring in Health Science with a focus in Exercise Science & Movement. After school, she plans on finding a career relating to self-help/therapeutic services. She was given the opportunity to join the UD Dance Ensemble and dance her heart out before finally graduating. She has been dancing for 16 years and took a 2-year gap period. She thinks this opportunity will spark her interest in choosing a career in dancing! In the end, she intends to live a life full of love, happiness, success, and abundance.



Ella Widau is a sophomore at University of Dayton double majoring in Marketing and Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology with a concentration in Acting. Ella has always had a passion for performing arts since they were young. They grew up dancing and singing competitively and were part of many shows throughout high school, including roles like Jan in Grease and Mal in Descendants. Their first year at UD they were a part of the UD Dance Ensemble and got the wonderful opportunity to meet some wonderful dancers. Their second year they were cast in student devised production Unearthly Shadows and played Emilie in The Moors. They have since rejoined the UD Dance Ensemble and are excited to get back to dancing on stage!

Meet the Student Production Team



Ben Remke (Lighting Designer) is a senior at the University of Dayton studying performance technology. He is also the resident lighting designer at Townhall Theatre. Over the last four years he has had the joy to share stories with the Dayton community. He would like to thank Amy for being so amazing. Shoutout to Teejai for being a real one.

Emily Bryan (Choreographer) - see cast

Kate Moreira (Choreographer) - see cast



Amy Schiffler (Calling Stage Manager) is a junior from Dayton majoring in Computer Information Systems and minoring in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology. They were an assistant stage manager for *The Sound of Music* and *Dido and Aeneas* and are currently the stage manager for *Godspell*. While not in rehearsal, they can be found drinking sweet tea, making boba (separate activities), and/or listening to the same fifteen songs on repeat. Amy would like to thank Sarah for doing the hard parts of stage management and letting them call the show.

Emma Symank (Writer) - see cast



Sarah Theewis (Stage Manager, Sound Design, & Assistant Lighting Design) is a first-year at the University of Dayton studying Performance Technology and International Studies. They have been working in technical theatre for the past five years and this is their second show working as a Stage Manager here at UD. This is their first time sound designing at UD and they are so excited to be one of the first designers to work at the Roger Glass Center. They hope you enjoy this show filled with many talented people telling their stories through acting and dance.

Meet the Production Team



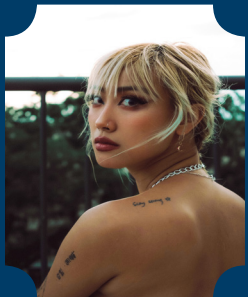
Chloe Cappuccilli (Costume Design) is the Faculty of Practice specializing in Costume Design and Puppetry at University of Dayton. Cappuccilli has been a costume and puppet designer for over a decade including work with regional theaters, universities and children's theaters across the country. She has professionally worked as a costume designer, draper, crafts artisan, props designer, technical director, puppet designer, and as part of puppet construction teams. Design credits include: *Godspell*, *Mojada: A Medea* in Los Angeles, *Hookman*, *Big Frog*, *Fefu and Her friends* (New Mexico State university) *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Naga Mandala* (West Virginia University) *Half Life of Memory* (Cold Basement Dramatics) *Moon shot*, *The American Revolution* (Theatre Unspeakable) *The Tempest*, *True West*, *Human Rites* (Columbia College Chicago). She is a member. Of the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT). Cappuccilli holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts in theater from Columbia College Chicago and a Masters of Fine Arts in costume design and technology from West Virginia University.



Teejai Dorsey (Production and Program Coordinator) is from Cincinnati, Ohio and graduated from the University of Dayton with a B.S. in Psychology and minor in Biology. Teejai has always had a deep admiration for the theatre world and loves attending shows. Teejai currently is the Production and Program Coordinator for the Theatre, Dance & Performance Technology program at the University of Dayton. She would like to congratulate the performers and technical team for all their hard work! Enjoy the show!



Dr. Michelle Hayford (Producer, Director of Common Good Players, Playback Theatre Conductor) is Director of the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program at the University of Dayton and Director of the Common Good Players applied theatre troupe. Michelle holds a PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University. Her creative scholarship utilizes theatre as community and civic engagement. Michelle's Undergraduate Research in Theatre (Routledge 2022) and Performing Arts as High-Impact Practice (with Kattwinkel, Palgrave 2018) situate the rigor and creative praxis of our discipline as fundamental to a liberal arts education and the research profile of our institutions. Her contribution titled "The Vocation of Advocacy: Enacting a More Just World," to *Called Beyond Our Selves: Vocation and the Common Good* (Oxford 2024), offers the Common Good Players as a model to engage the community in theatre for social change. Michelle is an applied theatre practitioner who advocates that the revolution for sustainable and equitable theatre practices must start in academic undergraduate theatre.



Linxin "Kisa" Li (Director of UDDE) is a multidisciplinary artist originally from Guiyang, China. With a background in choreography, filmmaking, photography, and composing. Kisa's creative endeavors span various mediums and disciplines. She is a Visiting Scholar in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program at the University of Dayton, and the director of the University of Dayton Dance Ensemble. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in dance at the University of Dayton, with Psychology, and a Master of Fine Arts in dance, with a specialization in dance film, from the Florida State University. As an award-winning dance filmmaker, Kisa's works have garnered international recognition and are screened worldwide. Her prowess in the field led to her being invited as a judge for the Student World Impact Film Festival and serving on the jury for the Utah Dance Film Festival in 2023. As a choreographer, her original choreography won many international, national, and regional dance competitions. Beyond her artistic pursuits, Kisa is an activist. She believes that her role as an artist extends beyond mere self-expression, and she strives to create thought-provoking art that sheds light on social issues, effectuating positive change in the world. Kisa's goal is to use their practical and theoretical experiences, to use art as a medium to learn, grow, tell critical stories, and draw attention to people who are too often ignored.



Eric Moore (Technical Direction) is the Technical Director for the Theater, Dance, and Performance Technology Program at the University of Dayton. He graduated with a BFA from Wright State University's Department of Theatre, Dance, and Motion Pictures Program. Hailing from Springfield, Ohio, Eric developed a love for the arts while working with the Springfield Art Council and attending their Summer Arts Festival throughout his youth. Over the years he has worked in theater communities around central Ohio with several organizations and in a variety of positions. As a

Dayton local, Eric developed good relationships with many local professionals and organizations including, Zoot Theatre Company, The Frazee Pavilion, and Dayton Live (formerly the Victoria Theatre Association). In Columbus, he's worked with the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA), The Contemporary Theatre of Ohio (formerly CATCO) and the Butterfly Guild. For many years he worked for the Human Race Theatre Company and covered several roles, including: Head Carpenter, Scenic Charge Artist, Technical Director and Set Designer. Eric worked for Columbus Children's Theater recently as their Assistant Technical Director, and as a Designer and teaching artist. Eric continues to look for opportunities to develop his skills and express his talents through art and design.



Rachel Robinson (Scenic Design) is a stage designer from Dayton, OH, and is the Faculty of Practice for Theatre Design in the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program. Her theatrical design career started early, at the first Technical Theatre CTE program in Ohio at Centerville High School. She went on to earn her BFA with a concentration in scenic design at Carnegie Mellon University. During her career in Dayton, she has worked with several local companies, including the Human Race Theatre Company, Dayton Live Creative Academy, TheatreLab Dayton, Magnolia Theatre Company, Town Hall Theatre, and Heidelberg University, filling a variety of roles including scenic designer, scenic artist, props/puppet designer, lighting designer, stage manager, and technical director. During this time, she also worked with students at local schools, including Chaminade-Julienne HS, Centerville HS, and Alter HS, to teach stagecraft skills and create scenery for their productions. Her most recent position was as the Career Tech Education teacher for Theatrical Design & Production at Stivers School for the Arts, during which time she earned her MA in Workforce Development Education at the Ohio State University. She is very excited to continue her theatrical and educational journey at UD!

Be sure to check out our next show...

GODSPELL

Conceived and Originally Directed by JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK
MUSIC AND NEW LYRICS BY STEPHEN SCHWARTZ

Originally Produced on the New York Stage by EDGAR LANSBURY / STUART DUNCAN / JOSEPH BERUH

April 19 & 20 @ 7:30pm
April 21 @ 4pm
Roger Glass Center for the Arts

Godspell is Steven Schwartz's beloved musical retelling of the Gospel of St. Matthew. Replete with parables and timeless songs, Godspell will help you reflect on faith and the value of community even as it gets your toe tapping.