SIMPLE GIFTS
November 11 - 12, 2022
Directors Note

The title Simple Gifts inspired our devising ensemble to get started putting together the play you will be experiencing tonight. We also took inspiration from the Medieval story surrounding you in the gallery. In the story, it is a simple gift that transcends. A juggler, instead of gifting an object, provides an experience. The juggler has a gift from God that cannot be given away, but only shared. A shared experience of wonder and joy is the guiding principle for tonight’s performance. Knowing the power experiences can bring to relationships and communities, we started from a foundation of engaging our senses. First, the five we are familiar with; sight, touch, smell, taste, and hearing, then moved to more abstract senses like the sense of freedom, a sense of humor, or a sense of self. The play that we made for you is a gift of imagination. Our play expands on what you may be expecting a play to be. You won’t be asked to your seat. You won’t be asked to stay quiet. Our play invites you to be playful with us. Together we will bring to life a Marianist clowning philosophy where we play for the common good and the delight of collective joy.
Meet the Cast

Logan Groff is a sophomore, Political Science major and Pre-Law minor. He has a side passion for acting and acted in the *Sound of Music* last year and played the role of Franz. Logan is looking to have a side career in acting.

Jacob Rosado-Bravo is a senior from Dayton, Ohio, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Sustainability with a concentration in Sustainable Watersheds and a minor in Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology. He is a student leader at the Hanley Sustainability Institute and is very excited to be a part of Simple Gifts -- as it will be his first formal role.

Jerome Yorke (Director, Actor) is an Assistant Professor for the University of Dayton’s Theatre, Dance and Performance Technology program specializing in Physical Theatre; acting, movement, puppetry, and clowning. He has 20 years of national and international professional acting and performance experience ranging from Bali, Indonesia to Abu Dhabi, UAE. His physically based work and approach to theatre making and performance blends imaginative storytelling and social justice with styles ranging from eccentric characterization to acrobatic dance. He is a core member of UpLift Physical Theatre, is an Alexander Technique International teacher trainee, and holds an MFA in Ensemble Based Physical Theatre from Dell’Arte International. His directing credits includes *Babes in Toyland, The Yearnin’ Heart Longs, Chicago, Reverberation, The Magic Flute and Through The Looking Glass, and What you Found There.*

Meet the Student Production Team

Ben Remke (Sound and Lighting Designer) is a third-year student at the University of Dayton studying Theatre, Dance & Performance Technology with a concentration in Performance Technology. He has done many shows at the university, including *The Sound Of Music, Laced, and Dancing in the Light.* He also has worked at Otterbein Summer Theatre as the Lead Electrician for their ’22 season and as a Lighting Designer at Townhall Theatre.

Meet the Production Team

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. Enjoy the show!
Dr. Michelle Hayford (Producer) is the Director of the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology Program and Associate Professor of Theatre at the University of Dayton. Michelle holds a Ph.D. in Performance Studies from Northwestern University. Her original creative scholarship combines her passions of creating live plays with utilizing the craft of theatre as a necessary response to community and civic engagement. Michelle’s passion for progressive leadership in academic theatre prompted her to write Undergraduate Research in Theatre, published by Routledge (2021), see routledge.pub/MichelleHayford. Previous original works include Spectacle (with Nick Cardilino, 2018), Sustenance (2016) created in collaboration with the Hanley Sustainability Institute, Dog Wish (2013) commissioned by The Humane Society of the United States and Suit My Heart (2011) created in collaboration with Footsteps to the Future, a foster youth non-profit. She is co-author and co-editor (with Susan Kattwinkel) of Performing Arts as High-Impact Practice (see https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783319729435), published by Palgrave MacMillan (2018) and Arts and Humanities Division editor of the journal SPUR: Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research.

Matthew J. Evans (Technical Director) creates scenic, audio, and lighting environments for theater, opera, dance, devised, and other live events. Matthew serves as the Technical Director in Design in the Theatre, Dance, and Performance Technology program and is the Theatre Manager for Boll Theatre at the University of Dayton. Professionally, Matthew works as the Director of Production and Lighting Director for the world-renowned Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. He has designed the original lighting plots for retroACTIVE, American Dance Platform, Byrd’s Eye View, DCDC’s 50th Anniversary Gala, The Bench, Reunited, Wynton Works, Vantage Points, The Littlest Angel, Etchings, and Tapestries at ARTS 651 in Brooklyn, New York. Internationally, Matthew has designed and worked as a stage manager for DCDC touring productions in Bermuda, Russia, Kazakhstan, and China. U.S. Regional Theatre credits include LaComedia Dinner Theatre, Springboro, Ohio, Opera Saratoga in Saratoga Springs New York, The Barter Theatre in Abingdon Virginia, University of Wisconsin – Platteville, Circa 21 Dinner Theatre in Rock Island Illinois, Enchanted Hill Playhouse in Nappanee Indiana, Sorg Opera in Middletown, Ohio, Ghostlight Theatre Inc. in Davenport, Iowa, and Horsecatchers and Applesauce Dinner Theatre in Winfield, Kansas. Originally from Davenport, Iowa, Matthew graduated in 1994 from Teikyo Marycrest University with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. Matt would like to welcome you back to live theatre, and give a hearty thank you to all the resilient students in the TDP program! www.matthewjevans.wixsite.com/theatre

Charis Weible (Costume Design, Costume Shop Manager) returns to the TDP after previously working here in the Spring of 2018 on Unfinished and Transparency. Other credits include: The Human Race Theatre Company (Race), Utah State University Opera (Hansel and Gretl) Vandalia Youth Theatre (Mary Poppins), Stivers School for the Arts (Anything Goes, Sherlock Holmes) and Chaminade Julienne Catholic High School (Footloose, Tartuffe, Godspell, Little Women, Freaky Friday), among others. She has worked for Columbus Children’s Theatre, the Dayton Ballet, IATSE local 66 and Kings Island, where she was the head of wardrobe. You can find Charis online at http://www.charisweible.com/ and follow her costuming adventures by liking @chariscostumes on Facebook or following @charisweible on Instagram.

Jerome Yorke (Director, Actor) see full bio under “Meet the Cast”
## Production Credits

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Producer</td>
<td>Dr. Michelle Hayford &amp; Dr. Julia Randel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directors</td>
<td>Jerome Yorke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production &amp; Program Coordinator</td>
<td>Teejai Dorsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>Matthew Evans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costume Coordinator/Costume Shop Manager</td>
<td>Charis Weible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound and Lighting Designer</td>
<td>Ben Remke</td>
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<tr>
<td>House Management</td>
<td>Kailey Peppard &amp; Amy Schiffler</td>
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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

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 1,500 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.