

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS

THE FALL SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

DEC 2 AT 8:00PM AND DEC 3 AT 3:00PM

המלך עיני AYINI HA'MELECH

CREATED BY ELISAVETA ALEKUMOVA & MIKAYLA BROOME

“YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...”

CREATED BY ARIA WALKER & ELIZABETH VOLPE

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER, CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

**2022-2023
SEASON**

2022-2023 SEASON

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DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

Mission Statement: As a community of Theatre and Dance artists, we cultivate the stewardship of intellect and imagination in a forum for civic dialogue as we seek to understand our calling in Christ.

messiah.edu/departments/theatre

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saw tonight, please
spread the word on
social media!



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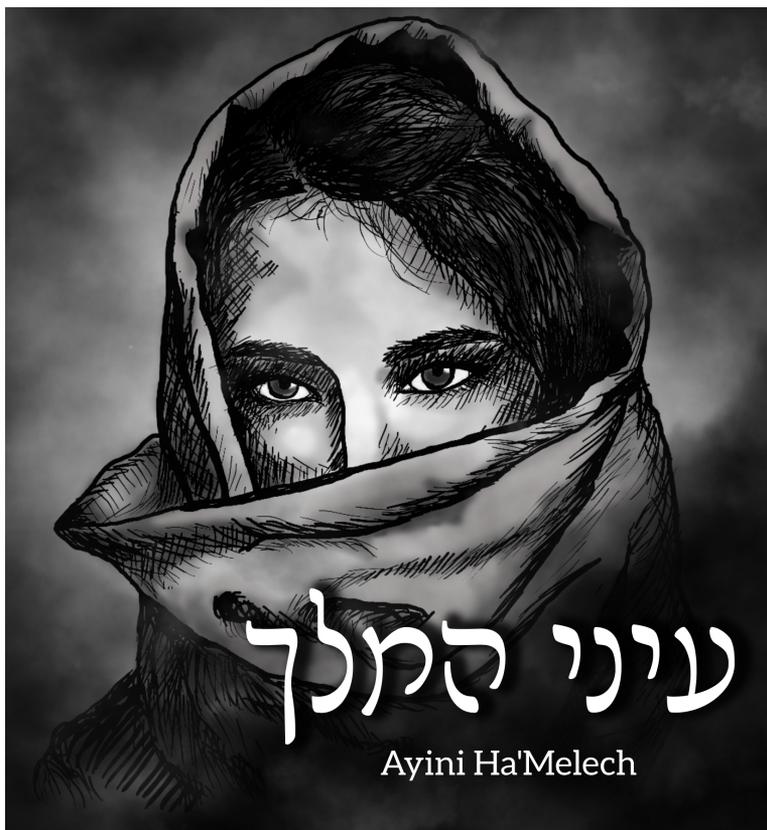


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THE PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOTAPING, OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO
RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

עיני המלך
AYINI HA'MELECH

Created by Elisaveta Alekumova & Mikayla Broome



CAST

Noa.....	Mikayla Broome
Kayra	Elisaveta Alekumova
Amira.....	Sierra Emery
Lord Farris/Townsperson	Brendon MacNeal
Performer/ Townsperson	Skyler Hildebeitel
Performer/ Townsperson	Xin Yi Toh

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Carmi Wilmot
Choreographer.....	Mikayla Broome
Assistant Choreographer.....	Elisaveta Alekumova
Stage Manager.....	Megan Eich
Scenic Designers.....	Elisaveta Alekumova and Mikayla Broome
Costume Designer	Mikayla Broome
Lighting Designer	Makayla Peltz
Props.....	Sierra Emery
Sound Designers	Reannah Weiss, Elisaveta Alekumova, and Mikayla Broome
Show Image Design.....	Elisaveta Alekumova
Project Advisor	Ed Cohn
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator	Eleanor Mund
House Manager	Ella Murray
Light Board Operator	Julia Itson
Sound Board Operator.....	Reannah Weiss
Run Crew	Rebecca Zheng, Abby Crispin, Zander Stringer

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to the cast for their dedication, encouragement, creativity and energy.

Thanks to Ed Cohn for advising this project, for his patience, and encouragement.

Thanks to crew for being flexible and quick on their feet.

Thanks to Tacey Widrick, Isaac Looi, Justin Tan, Emma Hehn, Ella Talbot, and Jahyire Minyet for giving us valuable feedback.

Thanks for family and friends for supporting us throughout and praying for us.

A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

As performers more often than not, our value and the validity of our work is judged on how big we make it or how many people know our name. We are made to want to perform for kings and queens. But let us ask you this, are jewels more precious to a king or to the poor man?

Conversely, in the Christian view, performers are seen as problematic unless the art we produce and our identity as artists are exclusively Christian. Through this project we hope to show the topics of fame, excellence, the performer's desire for an audience, and finding peace wherever we get to show our art. We desire to show that our work matters because of our choice to honor our purpose without worrying about how it looks to others. Whether it is through teaching children, performing for the masses, or simply bringing beauty into dark places, our place is not diminished. God has given us talents to use for his glory and some are called to perform for kings while others are called to dance with the people, and both are valued and have the potential for excellence. Ayini Ha'Melech means the eyes of the king, we chose this name because at the end of the day, it is Him we perform for, and His eyes are the only ones that should truly matter to us.

Elisaveta Alekumova & Mikayla Broome Co-Creators

BIOS

Elisaveta Alekumova (Kayra) is a senior theatre major with an acting and directing emphasis. She is very excited and blessed to be creating a new show from the ground up. Some of her credits include *Variations on the Death of Trotsky* as Mrs. Trotsky and Antonia/Watchman from *Much Ado About Nothing*. She has also directed several scenes, a one act, and a children's theatre show over the summer. She wants to thank first and foremost God, as well as her family and her dearest friends. She also wants to thank all the cast and crew for all their willingness to go along on this journey with her and Mikayla, and for being creative and flexible in the process.

Mikayla Broome (Noa) is a senior dance and business administration double major. She has participated in any and every dance opportunity available at Messiah University, from Blue Christmas, to Humanities, the Drum and Dance collaboration. Working with a variety of dance teachers such as Gregg Hurley and Molly Misiga has strengthened her into the dancer she is today. Mikayla began dancing when she was eleven years old and has been in love with the

art form ever since. The role of choreographer is one that she holds dear, and is the career that she will be perusing after graduation with the help of her mentor Patrice Comadore. While at Messiah, Mikayla has created a number of pieces such as Psalm 91 or Song of Healing and Comfort. Mikayla has enjoyed her education thoroughly and looks forward to creating new opportunities for Christians of color in her hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina.

Sierra Emery (Amira) is ecstatic to be performing in her fourth production at Messiah University. She has loved performing arts, and everything to do with it since she could walk and is grateful to be a part of a cast that puts God first. This show has been like none other she has experienced, and she has loved the entire process along with the people she has been working with. She loves the environment that has been created with this beautiful cast where she can just be herself! She wants to thank Mikayla for her incredible choreography and for pushing her to become a better dancer, along with Elisaveta for believing in her acting skills and casting her in the first place. She also wants to thank her family, friends, teammates, and most importantly God for their love and support.

Skyler Hildebeitel (Performer/Townsperson) is a junior mathematics major with dance and statistics minors. Skyler has been a dancer since age three and also participated in musical theatre throughout middle school and high school. She participated in several dance performances in Messiah and she is so excited to now be a part of a theatrical production again! Big thanks to Mikayla and Elisaveta for giving her this opportunity.

Brendon MacNeal (Lord Farris/Townsperson) is a junior business administration major with a minor in theatre. He has appeared in two productions so far in his first two semesters at Messiah, including *Bucket of Moon* and most recently, *Silent Sky*. Brendon plans on achieving an MFA in Acting after he graduates Messiah in 2024. He would like to thank Elisaveta and Mikayla for this opportunity and gives all glory to God for this performance.

Xin Yi Toh (Performer/Townsperson) is a ballet-trained dancer born and raised in Malaysia. She's a junior dance major, psychology minor. Upon arriving at Messiah, she started training in other dance styles including Jazz, Hip hop, Modern, and Tap. In addition to joining the GiViM community and performing in the Humanities, Percussion Ensembles, Azaguno, Culmination, and YBTV, she collaborated with her peers choreographing the dance "Diversity through Dance" for Culmination '22. She performed in Blue Christmas in November and is looking forward to performing in Elisaveta's and Mikayla's senior show.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This production features the following musical selections:

“Behene De” by Karthik and Mohammed Irfan

“Magenta Riddim” by DJ Snake

“Time Will Tell” by Josiah Savig

“Playing with the Big Boys” instrumental (*Prince of Egypt*) by Hans Zimmer

“Soldier, Poet, King” by The Oh Hellos

“Ropa Cara” by Camilo

“La Negra Tiene Tumbao” by Celia Cruz

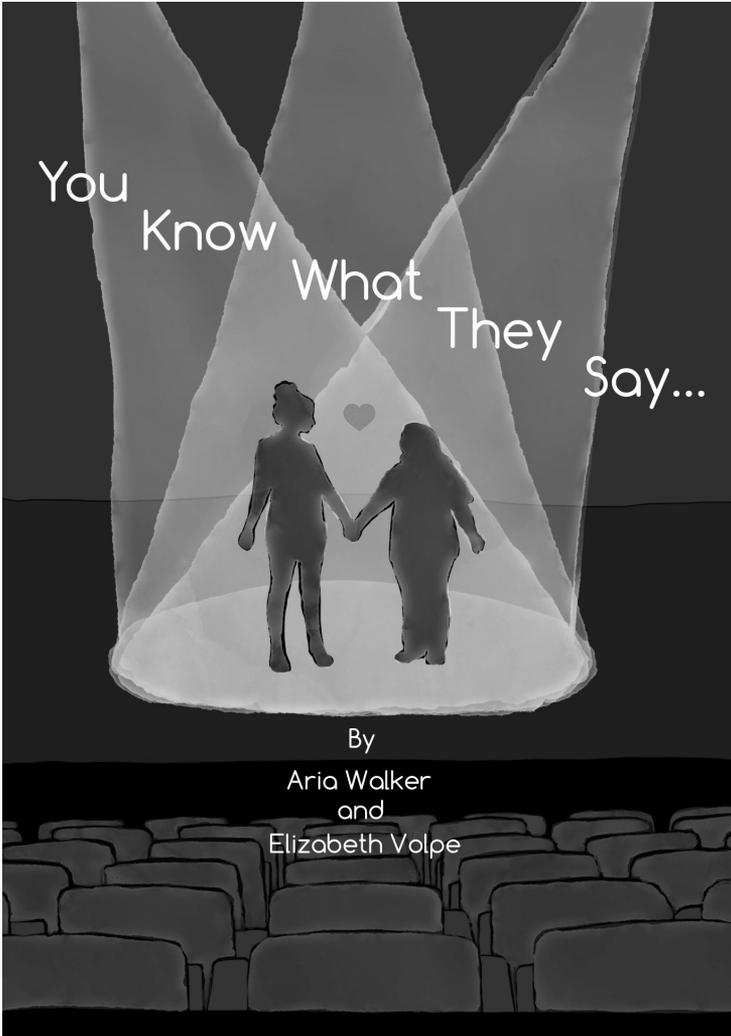
“Through Heaven’s Eyes” (*The Prince of Egypt*) by Hans Zimmer

“Royalty” by Byron Cage

There will be one 10-minute intermission between performances.

“YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...”

Created by Aria Walker and Elizabeth Volpe



CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

Ariana.....Aria Walker
Eliza..... Elizabeth Volpe

PIANISTS

Abijah Zimmerman
Makayla Peltz

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....Jordan Zercher
Stage Manager..... Carmi Wilmot
Lighting Designer Makayla Peltz
Show Image Design.....Alysse Whaley
Project Advisor Daniel Inouye
Chair of Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....Benjamin Roberts
Production ManagerPatricia DuBois
Publicity CoordinatorEleanor Mund
House Manager Ella Murray
Light Board Operator Julia Itson
Sound Board Operator.....Reannah Weiss
Run Crew Rebecca Zheng, Abby Crispin, Zander Stringer

SPECIAL THANKS

Daniel Inouye
Susan Hurley
Carmi Wilmot
Jordan Zercher
Abijah Zimmerman
Makayla Peltz
Alysse Whaley

A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

Have you ever heard the phrase, “a bad dress rehearsal makes for a good performance”? An interesting concept that isn’t always true, but an idea that nevertheless provoked inspiration in us. We love serious, heavy, thought-provoking theatre just as much as the next person. But when we decided to collaborate on our senior show, we knew we wanted to create and present something lighter, that would make people smile. Both of us liked the idea of incorporating comedy, and a “show within a show” seemed like a good canvas to start with. We chose a wide variety of songs, solos and duets, arranged and rearranged, wrote and rewrote scenes, and eventually came up with a whole cabaret-style show.

Through this process, we’ve only grown closer as friends, and collaborated on something we’re very proud of. We hope you thoroughly enjoy watching the Aria and Elizabeth you know play caricatured versions of themselves onstage, trying to convince one another that their senior show will all come together. Because you know what they say...

Aria Walker and Elizabeth Volpe, Co-creators

CREATORS' BIO

Aria Walker (Ariana) is a senior musical theatre major and couldn't be more excited to be performing her senior show alongside Elizabeth. She has been in many shows at Messiah, including *Steel Magnolias* (M'Lynn), *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Toad), *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (Queen Malvina), *Anne of Green Gables* (Anne Shirley), and several others. Aria is endlessly grateful to Elizabeth for her friendship, collaboration, and constant laughs, to the crew for their dedication, to her family for their support, and to God for opportunities to pursue her passion. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Elizabeth Volpe (Eliza) is a senior musical theatre major who is thrilled to be sharing the stage with Aria. With Messiah University, she has performed in *A Year with Frog and Toad* as Lady Bird 2 and Mother Frog, and was Dame Carruthers in *Yeomen of the Guard*. Some of her favorite past roles include Margaret Leavitt in *Silent Sky*, Medda Larkin in *Disney's Newsies* and Woman in *Anne of Green Gables*. Elizabeth would like to thank Aria for being an amazing collaborator throughout this process, and thanks everyone involved for their hard work and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This production features the following musical selections:

“I’ll Show Him” from *Plain and Fancy*

Words by Arnold B. Horwitt, Music by Albert Hague

“Raining” from *Rocky the Musical*

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Music by Stephen Flaherty

“Fifteen Pounds (Away From My Love)” from *The Marcy and Zina Show*

Lyrics by Marcy Heisler, Music by Zina Goldrich

“Love Will Come And Find Me Again” from *Bandstand*

Lyrics by Robert Taylor and Richard Oberacker, Music by Richard Oberacker

“Perfect Strangers” from *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*

Words and Music by Rupert Holmes

“Nothing Short of Wonderful” from *Dogfight*

Words and Music by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

“What You Don’t Know About Women” from *City of Angels*

Lyrics by David Zippel, Music by Cy Coleman

“Times Like This” from *Lucky Stiff*

Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens, Music by Stephen Flaherty

“Morning Person” from *Shrek the Musical*

Words and Music by Jeanine Tesori and David Lindsay-Abaire

“I Will Never Leave You” from *Side Show*

Words by Bill Russell, Music by Henry Krieger

SILENT SKY Written by Lauren Gunderson, Directed by Daniel Inouye

When Henrietta Leavitt begins work at the Harvard Observatory in the early 1900s, she isn't allowed to touch a telescope or express an original idea. Instead, she joins a group of women "computers," charting the stars for a renowned astronomer who calculates projects in "girl hours" and has no time for the women's probing theories. As Henrietta, in her free time, attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, she must also take measure of her life on Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love. The true story of 19th-century astronomer Henrietta Leavitt explores a woman's place in society during a time of immense scientific discoveries, when women's ideas were dismissed until men claimed credit for them. Social progress, like scientific progress, can be hard to see when one is trapped among earthly complications; Henrietta Leavitt and her female peers believe in both, and their dedication changed the way we understand both the heavens and Earth. **Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 6 – 8 at 8pm; Oct. 9 at 3 pm**

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurlley

Fall musical theatre cabaret. **Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 29 at 8pm; Oct. 30 at 3pm**

STEEL MAGNOLIAS Written by Robert Harling, Directed by Elizabeth Angelozzi

Steel Magnolias is set over the span of 3 years and tells the story of a group of friends, neighbors, and clients of hairstylist, Truvy Jones. The beginning of the play focuses on young Shelby who is preparing for her upcoming wedding. As Shelby's story progresses, we learn about her struggles with Type 1 diabetes, and her mother's concern about her leaving the nest and starting a family of her own. Although the ladies argue and tease each other, their friendship and sense of community holds them together. We see this at various points of crisis during the play and, ultimately, at the end when Shelby decision to go against her doctor's orders and have a child has dire consequences.

Miller Theater Nov. 10-12, 18-19 at 8pm; Nov. 13 & 20 at 3pm; *Nov. 17 at 10am special school performance

BLUE CHRISTMAS Directed by Gregg Hurlley

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with this lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance with this intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent. **Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 17 at 7pm**

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors. **Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 2 at 8pm, Dec. 3 at 3pm; Grace Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 9-10 at 8pm, Dec. 10 at 3pm**

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurlley

Spring musical theatre cabaret. **Grace Pollock Dance Studio Feb. 4 at 8pm; Feb. 5 at 3pm**

CRIMES OF THE HEART Written by Beth Henley, Directed by Ed Cohn

The scene is Hazlehurst, Mississippi, where the three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch, their grandfather, who is living out his last hours in the local hospital. Lenny, the eldest, never left Hazlehurst -- she is the caretaker of the sisters' cantankerous Old Granddaddy. Meg, the middle sister, left home to pursue stardom as a singer in Los Angeles, but has, so far, only found happiness at the bottom of a bottle. And Babe, the youngest, has just been arrested for shooting her abusive husband, Zackery Botrelle. Their troubles, grave and yet somehow hilarious, are highlighted by their priggish cousin, Chick, and by the awkward young lawyer who tries to keep Babe out of jail. Under the scorching heat of the Mississippi sun, past resentments bubble to the surface and each sister must come to terms with the consequences of her own "crimes of the heart." **Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 16-18 at 8pm; Feb. 18-19 at 3pm**

2023 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurlley

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way. This dance "lecture" explores and examines movement metaphors and images surrounding the idea of migration. **Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 24 at 4pm; Feb. 25 at 8pm**

INTO THE WOODS Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Book by James Lapine, Directed by Daniel Inouye

Based on the Brothers Grimm most popular folk tales, Into the Woods is a reimagining of what can happen when beloved fairy tale characters are thrown together while pursuing their dreams and wishes. The Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning team of Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine bring to life characters such as Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack (down from his beanstalk), the Baker and his wife, a pair of princes in search of their brides, and the big bad wolf who is on the lookout for his next meal. It intertwines these stories in increasingly dramatic and humorous ways and asks what comes after the "happily ever after" and whether the journey through the woods was worth it in the end. **Miller Theater March 23-25, 31 & April 1 at 8 pm; March 26 & April 2 at 3pm; *March 30 at 10am special school performance**

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors. **Poorman Black Box Theater April 14 – 15 at 8pm**

CULMINATION '23: SPRING DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurlley

Dancing is an artistic endeavor. Celebrate spring and the dance accomplishments of Messiah University's theatre and dance department in an offering of favorite dance pieces from the year, new faculty work, student adjudicated creations, and senior capstone projects all in one fun and glorious dance concert! **Miller Theater April 21 at 8pm; April 22 at 2pm; *April 20 at 10am special school performance**