

PRESENTED BY MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

WHO WILL CARRY THE WORD?

WRITTEN BY:

CHARLOTTE DELBO

TRANSLATED BY:
CYNTHIA HAFT

DIRECTED BY:
**ED COHN AND
CARMi WILMOT**

**POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING**

**OCTOBER 5 - 7 AT 8 PM
6 OCTOBER 8 AT 3 PM**

Please note that this performance contains mature content and may not be suitable for all audiences. Viewer discretion is advised.

**2023-2024
SEASON**

@MUTheatreandDance 

Messiah_ Univ_ Theatre_ and_ Dance 

 **MESSIAH
UNIVERSITY**

DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE

Messiah University Department of Theatre and Dance presents

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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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If you liked what you
saw tonight, please
spread the word on
social media!



@MUTheatreandDance



Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance

ARTISTIC TEAM

Co-Directors.....	Ed Cohn, Carmi Wilmot
Stage Manager.....	Makayla Peltz
Scenic Designer.....	TyMBERLEY Whitesel
Costume Designer.....	Elizabeth Angelozzi
Assistant Costume Designer.....	Gianna Warner
Lighting Designer.....	Tristan Stasiulis
Sound Designer.....	Lauren Forlow
Projection Designer.....	Sunny Almeyda
Properties Master.....	Reannah Weiss
Hair and Make-up Designers.....	Sierra Emery, Becca Methven
Music Composers.....	Abigail Chang, Samuel Shaw
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager.....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator.....	Hannah Wilburn

CAST

Françoise.....	Alysse Whaley
Claire.....	Denise Saunders
Mounette.....	Yanira Perez
Gina.....	Sierra Emery
Yvonne.....	Ashley Sheffe
Madeleine.....	Maddy Oliver
Réine.....	Clara Bellot
Marie.....	Tara Pitcher
Renée.....	Meredith Gardner
Agnès.....	Malkyah Bailey
Sylvie.....	Julianna Osburn
Small Peasant Girl.....	Sunny Almeyda
Régine.....	Jillian Stoltzfus
Elisabeth.....	Ashton Ritter
Hortense.....	Rachel Fleagle
Denise.....	Eleanor Mund
Monique.....	Ashlyn Moore
Berthe.....	Gianna Warner
Hélène's Mother.....	Julia Itson
Hélène.....	Adahlee Schroeder
Lina.....	Rebecca Zheng

RUNNING CREW

Assistant Stage Manager..... Meredith Hensel
Wardrobe..... Orphie Hartman
Light Board Op Hannah Whittaker
Sound Board/Projector Op..... Lea Ratos
Projection OpNathan Steinbach
House Manager Sammi Shuma

SET & COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Set and costume construction was completed with the help of the Messiah Theatre and Dance Department Work Study Students.

ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSITIONS

“Lamentation of the Masses” composed by Abigail Chang
“Death of a Beloved” composed by Abigail Chang and Samuel Shaw

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

Any photography, videotaping or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Who Will Carry the Word? takes place during the Holocaust, specifically the French Resistance. I was introduced to this play through a fellow student, Liberty Dolence. When choosing the play, Ed Cohn and I discussed how stories like this are a part of human history. Sometimes, history is ugly. The important part is that we learn from it and continue telling stories in hopes that history will not repeat itself. Despite the brokenness of the world, people grow through every trial they overcome. James 1:2-3 says to “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” The Lord will use all stories, good and bad, for His glory. Telling the truths of the world can be difficult, but it is an honor to have Charlotte Delbo return to write her story so the actors here at Messiah University can continue to carry the word.

- Carmi Wilmot, co-director

CAST BIOS

Sunny Almeyda (Small Peasant Girl) is a theatre major at Messiah University. Previous credits include *Leading Ladies* (Meg), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero U/S), *The Glass Menagerie* (Laura U/S), and *In the Heights* (Nina). She’s grateful to the cast and crew for welcoming her into this amazing production. She’d also like to thank God and her family!

Malkyah Bailey (Agnès) is a junior nursing major and graduate from the theatre department at Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School. She has performed in multiple shows at the Arts Center, including in *The Crucible* as Tituba, and as Mrs. Lynde in *Anne of Green Gables*. She has always had a passion for theatre and feels so privileged to share this very important story and be a part of this show.

Clara Bellot (Réine) is a sophomore musical theatre major and is honored to be a part of this powerful story. Previous credits include *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie Oakley), *Crimes of the Heart* (Chick), and *Into the Woods* (Florinda). She wholeheartedly thanks the Lord, her mom, friends, and the cast and crew that made this show possible, and finally these incredible women, whose stories must be told. She hopes that you enjoy this remarkable show.

Sierra Emery (Gina) is a Messiah University junior majoring in musical theatre. She is ecstatic to be performing in this production. This show was an incredible experience as she has grown so much as an actress and is grateful to have been trusted to share this story. She would like to praise God for this opportunity, her softball team, Professor Ed, Carmi, and her cast and crew for their unconditional love and support.

Rachel Fleagle (Hortense) is a first-year graduate student in the higher education department. This is her first experience in a theatre production at Messiah University. Rachel is passionate about how communication and storytelling can be used to advance the gospel, and graduated with her bachelor's degree in public relations at Messiah in May '23.

Meredith Gardner (Renée) is a senior history major with a social studies teaching certificate. She is honored to share this harrowing but important story in her second department production at Messiah. She thanks Connie Smith for helping her get here today. Her performance is in memory of them and dedicated to God, the Author of the art.

Julia Itson (Hélène's Mother) is a sophomore musical theatre student. Some of her past roles include Granny/Cinderella's Mother in *Into the Woods*, Claire in *Steel Magnolias*, and understudy for Lenny in *Crimes of the Heart*. When not performing she enjoys reading and spending time with her friends and family. She feels honored to be a part of such an important story directed by such wonderful people. Thank you for allowing us to carry the word.

Ashlyn Moore (Monique) is a junior musical theatre major. Past productions include *Into the Woods* (Sleeping Beauty-U/S Lucinda), *Crimes of the Heart* (U/S Babe), *Silent Sky* (U/S Annie Cannon), *Yeomen of the Guard* (Ensemble), *Much Ado About Nothing* (U/S Dogberry), *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), and *Eurydice* (Big Stone). She is grateful to Ed and Carmi for giving her this opportunity, as well as for her amazing fellow cast and crew mates.

Eleanor Mund (Denise) is a sophomore musical theatre major. Previous roles include Meg in *Crimes of the Heart*, Annie in *Silent Sky*, and Gertrude in *Hamlet*. Eleanor feels privileged to have been included in bringing such a devastating but important story to light. She extends heartfelt thanks to the cast, crew, Ed, and Carmi for making this production possible. Thank you for coming and opening your eyes, ears, and heart to this story.

Maddy Oliver (Madeleine) is honored to be playing Madeleine in *Who Will Carry the Word?* among a cast of friends. Maddy is a senior theatre major double minoring in HDFS and dance. Some of her roles at Messiah University include understudying the role of Antigone as a first-year, Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*. This show is a bittersweet experience as this will be one of her last on Messiah's stage.

Julianna Osburn (Sylvie) began performing at the age of eight when she was cast as "Young Fan" in Family Life Ministries' production of *A Christmas Carol*. Since then, she has enjoyed other roles with FLM, as well as with the Lake Country Players, including *The Music Man*, *Annie*, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, and *Peter Pan*. Most recently she played the part of Liesl in *The Sound of Music*. Julie loves dancing, singing, studying languages, and being with her family.

Yanira Perez (Mousette) is a sophomore musical theatre major. She is very honored to be acting in her first play at Messiah University. She is especially thrilled to be a part of a show with an amazing group of women. Her previous roles at Messiah include Little Red Riding Hood in *Into the Woods* as well as *Shoeless Joe*. Yanira would like to give a shout out to all who always support her.

Tara Pitcher (Marie) is a junior transfer student, and this is her first show at Messiah. Tara will be playing Marie and is so grateful for this opportunity to perform. She is currently studying film and media arts and hopes to declare a minor in theatre. Some of her other passions are singing, dance, and band. She is currently a part of Women's Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, and Footprintz. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Ashton Ritter (Elisabeth) is a senior theatre major with a minor in dance. She recently served as assistant costume designer for *Into the Woods* and *Steel Magnolias*, and has appeared in the roles Anger/Love in "Letting Our Walls Crumble" and Williamina's understudy in *Silent Sky*. Though unsure of what she'll pursue after college, she's excited to see what the Lord has in store. She is exceedingly grateful to everyone who made this show possible.

Denise Saunders (Claire) takes to the stage after a long hiatus. She is an active parent in theatre and music at Northern Schools where she is the assistant director of the middle school musical. While family commitments come first, Denise also works in the OAA on campus, narrates audiobooks, serves as Judge of Elections, and is an active member of her church. She really needs a nap.

Adahlee Schroeder (Hélène) is a theatre and English double major at Messiah University. She will be portraying the role of Hélène in *Who Will Carry the Word?*. Adahlee is a Colorado native and is thankful to her parents for loving and supporting her in this new journey.

Ashley Sheffe (Yvonne) is a first-year majoring in theatre, and feels very privileged to be bringing this story to life for her first performance on the Messiah stage. Highlights of her acting career include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena), *Footloose* (Vi), and *Macbeth* (1st Witch). She would like to thank her family, especially Emily, for being supportive, and the directing team for allowing this story to be told.

Jillian Stoltzfus (Régine) is a junior majoring in mathematics with teaching. She is so excited for the opportunity to be in this show and is grateful for Carmi, Ed, and the entire cast and crew. Past credits include *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Squirrel/Mole) and *Steel Magnolias* (Annelle). She would like to thank God, her family, and friends for their constant love and support.

Gianna Warner (Berthe) is beyond excited to be a part of *Who Will Carry The Word?*. Gianna is a sophomore musical theatre major. Some of her previous roles include Babette (*Beauty and the Beast*), Portia (*R&H's Cinderella*) and Meg understudy (*Crimes of the Heart*). Gianna is so thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of this show. She thanks the cast and crew for making this possible. She also thanks her friends and family for their endless support.

Alysse Whaley (Françoise) is thrilled to be able to share the story of *Who Will Carry the Word?*. She is a musical theatre major, whose select credits include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Hero, (*Much Ado About Nothing*), and Lady (*Ladies and Gentlemen, The Rain*). Alysse is very grateful for this amazing opportunity to perform with all of the wonderful people that she has met through the process of this production.

Rebecca Zheng (Lina) is a junior theatre student. This is her second year at Messiah University. *Who Will Carry the Word?* is her debut at Messiah University. Acting has always been her passion, and having a such wonderful opportunity to act on stage is her dream.



The Kennedy Center

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by
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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.

WHO WILL CARRY THE WORD? Written by Charlotte Delbo, Directed by Ed Cohn and Carmi Wilmot

"Who Will Carry the Word?" is a deeply moving recount of French writer Charlotte Delbo's survival during the Holocaust. The play depicts the atrocities during this unfathomable time in history, painting an emotionally raw picture of enduring the unimaginable. While "Who Will Carry the Word?" is based on existence in concentration camps, it also portrays how in times of despair, mankind comes together—bonded by strength and courage—to find hope and the will to escape a dire fate.

Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 5 – 7 at 8 pm; Oct. 8 at 3 pm

SHOELESS JOE Directed by Susan Hurley

Fall musical theatre cabaret.

Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 28 at 8 pm; Oct. 29 at 3 pm

ALABAMA STORY Written by Kenneth Jones, Directed by Daniel Inouye

As the Civil Rights movement is brewing, a controversial children's book about a black rabbit marrying a white rabbit stirs the passions of a segregationist State Senator and a no-nonsense State Librarian in 1959 Montgomery, Alabama. Meanwhile, the story of two childhood friends – an African American man and a woman of white privilege, reunited in adulthood – provides a private counterpoint to the public events swirling in the state capital. Political foes, star-crossed lovers, and one feisty children's author inhabit the same page in a Deep South of the imagination that brims with humor, heartbreak and hope. Inspired by true events.

Miller Theater Nov. 9-11, 17-18 at 8 pm; Nov. 12 & 19 at 3 pm; *Nov. 16 at 10 am special school performance

BLUE CHRISTMAS Directed by Gregg Hurley

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. 16 at 7pm

FALL SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 1 at 8 pm, Dec. 3 at 3 pm; Pollock Dance Studio Dec. 8-9 at 8 pm, Dec. 10 at 3 pm

2024 HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurley

Dancing is a scholarly pursuit. Watch and consider how the dance program tackles the annual Humanities symposium topic in its own unique way.

Poorman Black Box Theater Feb. 23 at 4 pm; Feb. 24 at 8 pm

THE SPITFIRE GRILL Music and book by James Valcq, Lyrics and book by Fred Alley, Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff, Directed by Ed Cohn. Based on the hit film, "The Spitfire Grill" is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance, and family. A torn page from an old travel book sparks parolee Percy Talbot to journey to a small town in Wisconsin. There she finds a new life working at the Spitfire Grill. The folks in this depressed town have more to worry about than Percy's past, but fear and hesitancy turn to friendship when Percy schemes to revive the old grill by raffling it off. The entry fee is one hundred dollars, and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full, and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

Miller Theater Feb. 29, March 1-2, 5-7 at 8 pm; March 2-3 at 3 pm; *March 5 at 10 am special school performance

SPRING SENIOR SERIES

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

Poorman Black Box Theater March 22 - 23 at 8 pm

CULMINATION '24: SPRING DANCE CONCERT Directed by Gregg Hurley

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 12 at 8 pm; April 13 at 2 pm

ONE-ACT FESTIVAL & SHOELESS JOE COMBINED

A festival of student-directed and fully produced one act plays! Join us for several evenings of fresh, inventive, and innovative story telling.

Poorman Black Box Theater April 26 – 27 at 8 pm; April 28 at 3 pm