

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF  
THEATRE AND DANCE  
PRESENTS

**THE FALL SENIOR SERIES**

**AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE**  
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

**DECEMBER 13 & 14 @ 8 P.M.**


**"GHOSTS IN THE MIRROR"**  
CREATED BY ASHLYN MOORE

**"QUIÉN TÚ ERES"**  
CREATED BY SOLANGIE ALMEYDA & LEA RATOS

**"CHASING THE FLAME"**  
CREATED BY SIERRA EMERY & ELLA MURRAY

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER, CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

**2024-2025  
SEASON**

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Messiah\_Univ\_Theatre\_and\_Dance 

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UNIVERSITY**  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
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**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](https://messiah.edu/departments/theatre)

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

# **“GHOSTS IN THE MIRROR”**

**Created by Ashlyn Moore**



Created by Ashlyn  
Moore



Ghosts  
In the  
Mirror

# CAST

Joyce, Jo.....	Ashlyn Moore
Marlene, Claire, Kess .....	Gianna Warner
Angie, Catherine, Sherry .....	Kenya Gegner

# PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Ashlyn Moore
Stage Manager.....	Ashley Sheffe
Scenic Designer .....	Ashlyn Moore
Costume Designer .....	Ashlyn Moore
Lighting Designer .....	Sammi Shuma
Sound Designers .....	Ashlyn Moore and Sammi Shuma
Properties Master .....	Ashlyn Moore
Project Advisor .....	Daniel Inouye
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager .....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator .....	Abby Crispin
House Manager .....	Ella Shane
Light Board Operator .....	Adahlee Schroeder
Sound Board Operator.....	Tyler Lynch
Run Crew .....	Solenna Mack and Hannah Taylor

# A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

“Ghosts in the Mirror” is a compilation of excerpts that depict stories of people that struggle to communicate. Either with each other or with themselves, this lack of communication in our society can lead us to bottle our emotions until they explode. When searching for content for this show, I wanted to focus on pieces that highlight self-doubt, because I wanted an audience to be able to see themselves in the characters and connect to the struggles they are going through. The ever-changing story of the show will hopefully allow the audience to find at least one story they can really connect with.

~ Ashlyn Moore, Creator

**Ashlyn Moore** (Joyce, Jo) is a senior musical theatre major. Past productions include *Tartuffe* (Elmire), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Monique), *Into the Woods* (Sleeping Beauty, U/S Lucinda), *Crimes of the Heart* (U/S Babe), *Silent Sky* (U/S Annie Cannon), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena). She is grateful to Gianna and Kenya for giving her this opportunity to bring this show to life, and everyone else that was involved in the production.

**Gianna Warner** (Marlene, Claire, Kess) is a junior theatre major with an emphasis in acting. Her previous roles include *Red House Monster* (Geryon), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Berthe), and *Into the Woods* (Giant/Baby). She is so grateful to have this opportunity. She would like to thank her director as well as her friends and family for their support.

**Kenya Gegner** (Angie, Catherine, Sherry) is thrilled to be part of this senior show in her first year of college as a musical theatre major. She has previously appeared in nine ballets, including *The Nutcracker* and *Cinderella*. Kenya has also performed in musicals such as *The Prince of Egypt* (Miriam), *Willy Wonka* (Ms. Teavee), *Seussical* (Bird Girl), and various seasonal shows. She is very grateful to Ashlyn for letting her be a part of this awesome production.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

This production features the following play excerpts:

*Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill

*Proof* by David Auburn

*Independence* by Lee Blessing

This production features the following musical selections:

"What's Wrong with Me" by Jeff Richmond

Music and Lyrics by Nell Benjamin

"Safer" from *First Date*

Music and Lyrics by Alan Zachary and Michael Weiner

"Pretty Funny" from *Dogfight*

Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

"I Can Do Better Than That" from *The Last Five Years*

Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

# “QUIÉN TÚ ERES”

Created by Solangie Almeyda & Lea Ratos



## CAST

Mara ..... Solangie Almeyda  
Ezekiel ..... Xavier Bryant  
Camila ..... Yanira Perez

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director .....	Reannah Weiss
Stage Manager.....	Ashley Sheffe
Scenic Designer .....	Lea Ratos
Costume/Hair and Makeup Designer.....	Lea Ratos
Lighting Designer .....	Lea Ratos
Sound Designer .....	Lea Ratos
Properties Master.....	Lea Ratos
Show Image Design.....	May Ratos
Project Advisor .....	Daniel Inouye
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager .....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator .....	Abby Crispin
Projections Designers.....	Solange Almeyda and Lea Ratos
House Manager .....	Ella Shane
Light Board Operator .....	Adahlee Schroeder
Sound Board Operator .....	Tyler Lynch
Projections Operator.....	Garty Bowersox
Run Crew .....	Solenna Mack and Hannah Taylor

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

The Messiah Theatre and Dance Department for giving us the opportunity to devise such an important story to us. Also, May Ratos for poster image design, AJ Jerome for Spanish homework and Bethany for motivation.

**A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS**

We are so honored to be able to bring this idea to life. We decided to work together in sophomore year and are so blessed to see it come to fruition. We decided to devise our play, so that we would be able to share our experiences as an international student and American student of color. We knew that each of our unique perspectives on these four years in college would be important to showcase. We hope that we were able to reflect the experiences of other multicultural students. Another important component of this show was the desire to make it accessible by using captions and a more relaxed environment. Thank you for coming and please enjoy all the shows! ~Solange Almeyda and Lea Ratos, Creators

## BIOS .....

**Solangie Almeyda** (Mara) is a senior theatre major at Messiah University. Previous acting credits include *Leading Ladies* (Meg), *The Glass Menagerie* (U/S Laura), and *In The Heights* (Nina). She had the amazing opportunity to direct *Sure Thing* in Messiah's One-Act Festival last year. She's grateful to Lea Ratos, Xavier Bryant, and Yanira Perez for jumping into this crazy project with her. She'd like to thank God and her family!

**Xavier Bryant** (Ezekiel) is a sophomore physical therapy major and theatre minor who has a deep appreciation for the arts! He is extremely grateful to Lea and Solangie for this opportunity, as this is his first ever stage performance! Additionally, he would like to thank God, his mother, his brothers Caleb and Liam, and everyone who allowed him to always be himself!

**Yanira Perez** (Camila) is a junior musical theatre major and education minor at Messiah University. Previous credits include *Into the Woods* (Little Red Riding Hood), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Mounette), and *By the Bog of Cats* (Josie). She is thrilled to be in a show that celebrates her Hispanic heritage. She would like to thank Solangie and Lea for this opportunity. She would also like to thank her family and friends for supporting her in the arts.

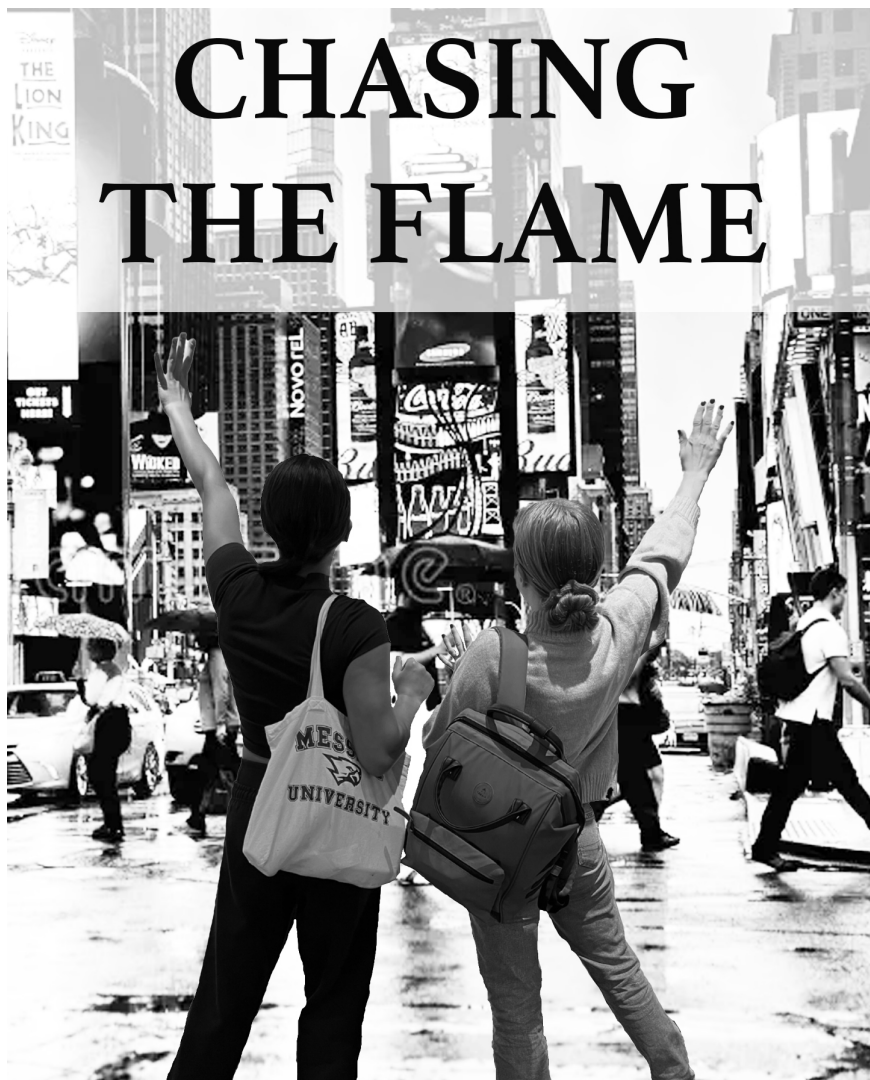
**Lea Ratos** (Show Designer) is a senior theatre major with an emphasis in technical design. She loves to work behind the scenes in shows, making the vision come true. Previous shows that she had been lighting designer for include "Shoeless Joe", "Blue Christmas" and other senior shows. She is grateful to have her opportunity to work on her own senior show. She would like to thank her sister for always being there for her.

# **“CHASING THE FLAME”**

**A musical containing a collection of songs**

**Created by Sierra Emery & Ella Murray**

# **CHASING THE FLAME**



## CAST

Jacqueline Eckstein.....	Sierra Emery
Caroline Monroe .....	Ella Murray
Sam Lephart .....	AJ Espada
Ann Miller .....	Lilly Davey

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Co-Directors .....	Sierra Emery and Ella Murray
Stage Manager .....	Josh McCleaf
Choreographer .....	Sierra Emery
Scenic Designers .....	Sierra Emery and Ella Murray
Costume/Hair and Makeup Designers.....	Sierra Emery and Ella Murray
Lighting Designers .....	Sierra Emery and Ella Murray
Sound Designers .....	Sierra Emery and Ella Murray
Properties Masters .....	Sierra Emery and Ella Murray
Show Image Design.....	James Helman and Emma Dingus
Show Image Design Inspiration .....	Rebecca Methvan
Print Media Designer .....	Maggie Chinnadurai
Project Advisor.....	Daniel Inouye
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director .....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager .....	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator .....	Abby Crispin
House Manager .....	Ella Shane
Accompanist.....	Bob Feil
Light Board Operator .....	Adahlee Schroeder
Sound Board Operator.....	Tyler Lynch
Projections Operator .....	Garty Bowersox
Run Crew.....	Solenna Mack and Hannah Taylor

## SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to our families for all of their love and support, our friends for taking the time to help us make this show a reality, and most importantly our Lord and Savior for which we give all the praise.

## SYNOPSIS:

Two aspiring actresses who double as roommates work tirelessly toward their big break together. While navigating their friendship, careers (or lack thereof), and relationship with God, they run into some issues. To achieve their dreams they each must learn how to overcome the unique obstacles that stand in their way. But what happens when one achieves success before the other?

### NOTES FROM THE CREATORS:

Many often underestimate the true power of art. Emotions can be captured through art, whether it's on stage or on the screen. It can motivate, inspire, provoke deep reflection, and transform viewpoints. I fell in love with musical theatre for these reasons. Inspired by my late Uncle Paul Eckstein, a TV writer, I looked forward to the opportunity to write a meaningful story of my own. Working with Ella on this show has been incredibly rewarding as we have grown in our friendship and learned so much about the creating process and our own skills as performers. Ella and I have our own strengths, but we also have weaknesses. We complete each other as my weaknesses are her strengths and vice versa. We ended up learning more from each other than we thought possible as we pushed each other to be better in multiple ways.

We wanted to create a story that was exuberant, meaningful and got the audience to think from a new perspective. We also wanted to implement what it's like to have a relationship with Jesus in the show in a way that was relatable but also reminded others of God's goodness and his plan for our lives. God's plan is greater than our own, and he knows what's best for us, but this can be hard to remember as we face the trials and tribulations of life. This was one of the most important aspects for me when creating this piece because while the desire to perform consumes my heart, the desire to follow, serve, and praise Jesus is at the forefront of my life. As you watch the story unravel, our hope is that you leave the theater feeling optimistic, excited, and hopeful about the future and the plan God has for each of us. ~ **Sierra Emery, Creator**

Sierra and I have a unique friendship in that we push each other to be our best. We are able to help each other because our strengths are different. Sierra helps me with dance and I help her with *(continues on page 10)*

### **(NOTES FROM THE CREATORS CONTINUED)**

music. In the process of creating and putting together our senior show, we were able to use our strengths in leadership roles, while also pushing ourselves out of our comfort zones and teaching each other new things. Together, we made the perfect team to create a story we were proud of. We wanted to write a story that wasn't just a showcase of our talents but also had meaning. We took the audience on a journey that was relatable in some way and could reflect upon afterward. We also wanted to make sure to communicate our strong faiths in real life to the show, which was a challenge in and of itself. This process was unlike any other, with lots of ups and downs, but a rewarding outcome along the way.

We are grateful for our friendship and the amazing partnership we've developed through this experience. We hope that our production will give you a glimpse into the life of an actor, and the struggles one can face with self-doubt and fear for the future. Each character shows a different way that they cope with stress, how they look to the future, and where their help comes from. We were inspired by our own life struggles, friends, family, and our own hopes for the future. We hope you enjoy the story, leave the theater feeling joyful, and have the opportunity to reflect on your own lives based on what you see. ~ **Ella Murray, Creator**

### **BIOS**

**Ella Murray** (Caroline) is excited to be back on stage at Messiah. She has performed with theaters in the Lancaster/Lebanon area including Gretna Theatre as well as Servant Stage Company and Piercing Word. Over the summer she was in the *The Marvelous Wonderettes* with Servant Stage Company where she performed in several venues across Lancaster County. Love and thanks to my parents, family, and friends for their encouragement and support.

**Sierra Emery** (Jacqueline) is a senior at Messiah University and is thrilled to be performing in the Fall Senior Series. She has enjoyed the opportunity to create her own piece of work with her partner Ella. She would like to praise God for this opportunity, her softball team, Professor Dan, and her cast and crew for their love and support. She wants to give a special thanks to her immediate family for always being there for her and her Grandma, Patricia Clark, for taking her to her first acting class.

**AJ Espada** (Sam) is so excited to be performing here at Messiah for his fifth show. He has been a part of shows such as Blue Christmas, Humanities Symposium Dance Concert, Culmination, the One-Act Festival and more! He is a dance major with a minor in pre-counseling and therapy here at Messiah and loves to tell stories through dance.

**Lilly Davey** (Ann) is ecstatic to be performing in Sierra Emery's and Ella Murray's senior show! She loves working with other students, especially on projects for their majors. She is a sophomore dance major and has performed in four shows at Messiah so far. Each performance is a new experience and this show will be her first experience with theatre!

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

This production features the following musical selections:

"I Want It All" from *High School Musical 3: Senior Year*  
Music and Lyrics by Matthew Gerrard and Robbie Nevil

"I Hope I Get It" from *A Chorus Line*  
Music by Marvin Hamlisch; Lyrics by Edward Kleban

"Climbing Uphill" from *The Last 5 Years*  
Music and Lyrics by Jason Robert Brown

"I21" from *The Goofy Movie* (1995) Soundtrack  
By Tevin Campbell and Featured Artist Rosie Gaines

"Times are Hard for Dreamers" from *Amélie*  
Music and Lyrics by Nathan Tysen and Daniel R. Messé

"Canned Heat" by Jamiroquai

"42nd Street" from *42nd Street*  
Music by Harry Warren; Lyrics by Al Dubin and Johnny Mercer

"A Way Back To Then" from *[title of show]*  
Music and Lyrics by Jeff Bowen

"Before It's Over" from *Dogfight*  
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

"Thank You For The Music"

Music and Lyrics by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus

"My Days" from *The Notebook*

Music and Lyrics by Ingrid Michaelson

"For Good" from *Wicked*

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz

"Everything Changes" from *Waitress*

Music and Lyrics by Sara Bareilles

"Another Day of Sun"

Music by Justin Hurwitz; Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

This production also features:

A monologue from *La La Land* - Damien Chazelle

**BY THE BOG OF CATS** Written by Marina Carr, Directed by Daniel Inouye

Loosely based on Euripides' tragedy *Medea*, this is the prophetic tale of Hester Swane, an Irish Traveller, who attempts to come to terms with a lifetime of abandonment in a world where all whom she has loved have discarded her. Set on the bleak, ghostly landscape of the Bog of Cats, this provocative drama discloses one woman's courageous attempts to lay claim to that which is hers, as her world is torn in two. Hester's long-term lover, Carthage Kilbride, with whom she has a seven-year-old daughter, is selling her "down the river" for the promise of land and wealth through a marriage with the local big farmer's daughter. In the final moments of the action, we witness a woman provoked beyond the limits of human endurance. *By the Bog of Cats* is a furious, uncompromising tale of greed and betrayal, of murder and profound self-sacrifice.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 3-5 at 8 pm; Oct. 6 at 3 pm**

**SHOELESS JOE** Directed by Susan Hurley

Fall musical theatre cabaret

**Poorman Black Box Theater Oct. 12 at 8 pm; Oct.13 at 3 pm**

**TARTUFFE** Written by Molière, Translation by Richard Wilbur, Directed by Ed Cohn

The story takes place in the home of the wealthy Orgon, where Tartuffe—a fraud and a pious imposter—has insinuated himself. He succeeds magnificently in winning the respect and devotion of the head of the house, and then tries to marry his daughter and seduce his wife and scrounge the deed to the property. He nearly gets away with it, but an emissary from King Louis XIV arrives in time to recover the property, free Monsieur Orgon, and haul Tartuffe off to jail. And so his duplicity is finally exposed and punished.

**Miller Theater Nov. 14-16, 22-23 at 8 pm; Nov. 17 & 24 at 3 pm; \*Nov. 21 at 10 am special performance**

**BLUE CHRISTMAS DANCE CONCERT** Directed by Gregg Hurley

Messiah University dance students acknowledge the struggles and challenges of this broken and fallen world with a lament-driven dance experience. Reflect with us through the medium of dance in an intimate evening of words, music, and dance that will tenderly prepare us all for the joyous season of Advent.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Nov. 21 at 7 pm**

**FALL SENIOR SERIES**

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Dec. 13- 14 at 8 pm**

**PETER RABBIT AND ME** Written by Aurand Harris, Directed by Ed Cohn

*Peter Rabbit and Me* is a delightful dramatization of the beloved story of Peter Rabbit. Beatrix Potter, age 13, is a poor little rich girl secluded in her top-floor nursery. She creates her own excitement by inventing and illustrating stories about her pet animals. Beatrix transforms into Peter, her Governess becomes Peter's mother, and her stern Victorian father becomes Farmer McGregor. Here is a revealing and charming glimpse of Victorian society in contrast to the antics of the uninhibited animal world. *Peter Rabbit and Me* is filled with humor, adventure, colorful characters and all of the magic of children's theatre.

**Poorman Black Box Theater Jan. 24-25 at 7 pm; Jan. 26 at 3 pm**

**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. 21 at 4 pm; Feb. 22 at 8 pm**

**SHOELESS JOE** Directed by Susan Hurley

Spring musical theatre cabaret

**Poorman Black Box Theater March 1 at 8 pm; March 2 at 3 pm**

**SPRING SENIOR SERIES**

An evening of performance created and presented by department seniors.

**Poorman Black Box Theater March 21-22 at 8 pm; April 24- 25 at 8 pm**

**ANYTHING GOES** Music and Lyrics by Cole Porter, Book by Guy Bolton, P.G. Wodehouse, Howard Lindsay, and Russel Crouse; New Book by Timothy Crouse & Jacob Weidman, Directed by Daniel Inouye

When the S.S. American heads out to sea, etiquette and convention head out the portholes as two unlikely pairs set off on the course to true love - proving that sometimes destiny needs a little help from a crew of singing sailors, a comical disguise, and some good old-fashioned blackmail. This hilarious musical romp across the Atlantic, features Cole Porter's joyful score, including "I Get A Kick Out of You", "You're the Top" and the show-stopping "Anything Goes."

**Miller Theater April 3-5, 11-12 at 8 pm; April 6 & 13 at 3 pm; \*April 10 at 10:00 am special school performance**

**CULMINATION '25: 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 May 2 at 8 pm; May 3 at 2 pm**