

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS

THE SPRING SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

MARCH 21 - 22 @ 8:00 P.M.

“PERPETUAL MOTION”

CREATED BY MEGAN EICH & ELLA SHANE

TIME FLIES

BY DAVID IVES

DIRECTED BY MEREDITH L. HENSEL

**POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING**

**2024-2025
SEASON**

@MUTheatreandDance 

Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance 

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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

CONNECT WITH US!

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



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

“PERPETUAL MOTION”

Created by Megan Eich & Ella Shane



CAST

Bianca "Bea" Emerson	AJ Jerome
Charlotte "Charlie" Emerson.....	Eleanor Mund

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Megan Eich
Stage Manager.....	Ashley Sheffe
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Xavier Bryant
Scenic Designer	Ella Shane
Costume/Hair and Makeup Designer	Ella Shane
Lighting Designer	Ella Shane
Lighting Consultant	Lea Ratos
Sound Designer	Ella Shane
Audio Engineer	Alden Walker
Properties Master	Ella Shane
Composer.....	Gabe Nater-Padro
Lyricist.....	Ashley Sheffe
Show Image Design.....	May Ratos
Project Advisor	Ed Cohn
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator	Abby Crispin
House Manager	Reannah Weiss
Light Board Operator	Adahlee Schroeder
Sound Board Operator	Ashley Sheffe
Construction Crew.....	Solangie Almeyda, Megan Eich, AJ Jerome, Sydney Momot, Lea Ratos, Ethan Reisler, Ella Shane, Ashley Sheffe

SPECIAL THANKS

We want to say thanks first and foremost to God for giving us this opportunity to create. Thank you to our wonderful families for supporting us in our journeys. Thank you to Xavier Bryant and Clara Bellot for voicing our parents. Special thanks to Josie Christ for lending your artistry to our set. Thank you to the alumnus and fellow seniors who have given us the opportunity to learn from them. Thank you to our professors; we are honored to receive both your knowledge and wisdom. Thank you to Ashley Sheffe for being the best stage manager of all time. Thank you to Sydney Momot for inspiring us to drive you to tears. Thank you to Lea and May Ratos for being the most talented sibling duo we could hope to learn from. Thanks to all the friends that showed up at odd hours to help us, even at their own inconvenience. Thank you to the dozens of people who have contributed to this show in both little ways and big. Thank you to our Freak Family for joy, laughter, inspiration, and our own little pocket dimension.

A NOTE FROM THE CREATORS

The only thing we knew about this project when we started was that we wanted to tell a story about grief. There is something so compelling about this universal experience; grief leaves a hole in those it touches, and we wanted to use our art to soothe the ache. We knew the most effective way to achieve this goal was to pursue honesty in our show. Throughout the devising and rehearsal process we pushed our actors to find rich connections to their characters and with one another. We pursued openness and reality in our design with the hope of immersing our audiences in a world that felt familiar. In every way, we set our sights on uncovering the authentic love on which the most bitter grief is centered. In finding this, and helping our characters move out of the storm of their grief, we hope to offer audiences a shelter from their own.

For further grief resources: <https://www.samhsa.gov/communities/coping-bereavement-grief>

Megan Eich and Ella Shane, Creators

BIOS

AJ Jerome (Bea) is a recent Messiah alumni. While they enjoyed theatre in high school, this is their college acting debut. Outside of performing, AJ works in special education, writes poetry, and spends time with friends and their cat George. AJ is honored to be a part of Ella and Megan's senior show and hopes that everyone leaves impacted by the story.

Eleanor Mund (Charlie) is thrilled to have been part of crafting this profound story with Megan and Ella. She is a junior musical theatre major, having appeared in Messiah shows such as *By the Bog of Cats* (Hester), *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Denise), and *Crimes of the Heart* (Meg), among others. Huge thanks to everyone for their hard work, as well as her friends and family for their unending support. Thank you and enjoy!

There will be one 15- minute intermission between performances.

TIME FLIES

By David Ives

Directed by Meredith L. Hensel

Time Flies is part of *Mere Mortals: Six One- Act Comedies* by David Ives.

MERE MORALS is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. (www.dramatists.com)

MERE MORTALS was presented Off-Broadway by Casey Childs, Richard Gross, Jeffrey Richards and Ted Snowdon in August 1997 at the John Houseman Theater.

Originally produced by Primary Stages Company in May 1997.

CAST

Swamp Life Host Rebecca Zheng
May Mayfly..... Kelsey Lemieux
Horace Mayfly A.J. Rhoads

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Meredith L. Hensel
Stage Manager..... Ashley Sheffe
Scenic Designer Meredith L. Hensel
Costume Designer Meredith L. Hensel
Lighting Designer Ella Shane
Sound Designer Meredith L. Hensel
Properties Master..... Meredith L. Hensel
Project AdvisorEd Cohn
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye
Technical Director Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator Abby Crispin
House Manager Reannah Weiss
Light Board Operator Ashley Sheffe
Sound Board Operator Ashley Sheffe

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks go to A.J. Rhoads for being an amazing friend and good sport at helping me out last minute. To Kelsey and Rebecca for being awesome to work with and making me laugh every rehearsal. As well as all those who were willing to help me out with this show. Also to all of my friends and family for continuing to support my dream and pursuit of the theatre. And last but definitely not least to amazing, wonderful, supportive and loving husband Stephen who I could not have done this without! Love You, Stephen!

BIOS

Kelsey Lemieux (May Mayfly) is a sophomore elementary education major (pre-k-4) with a dance minor. This is her 28th show and first play with Messiah University, although you might have seen her in the piano and dance department collaboration, Culmination, Acclamation, or Humanities. Kelsey has been dancing for 13 years. Some of her favorite roles include Fiona (*Shrek, Jr.*) at The Guild, PEI, the White Stag (*Narnia*), Young Beaky (*Honk!*) at Midcoast Youth Theater, and The Shoemaker's Elf (*Shrek, Jr.*) with Maine State Music Theater. She would like to thank Messiah University for making all of this possible.

A.J. Rhoads (Horace Mayfly) has most recently appeared as "Hodgson" in Oyster Mill Playhouse's production of *Love From a Stranger*. A.J. is appearing in his first show at Messiah University. He has an A.F.A in Theatre from HACC. A.J. has also appeared in the *Lifetime* tv show titled *#TextMeWhenYouGetHome*. He is excited to put on this show for everyone. He also is very grateful for the love and support from his friends and family.

Rebecca Zheng (Swamp Life Host) most recently appeared as Bird in *Peter Rabbit and Me*, a delightful theatre for young audiences production. This marks her third performance on the Messiah University stage. As a senior theatre major, Rebecca is passionate about bringing energy, joy, and laughter to audiences. She strives to create memorable theatrical experiences that inspire and entertain.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I praise you, Lord, for giving me the talent of Theatre and for blessing me with the ability to continue to pursue the talents that you have gifted me.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Never give up, and be confident in what you do. There may be tough times, but the difficulties which you face will make you more determined to achieve your objectives and to win against all the odds."

-Marta, Brazilian soccer player

Meredith Hensel, Director

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, Original Book by P.G. Wodehouse, Guy Bolton, Howard Lindsay & 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