

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS



THE FALL SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE

CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

DECEMBER 1 AT 8 P.M. & DECEMBER 3 AT 3 P.M.

THE RED HOUSE

MONSTER

BY RACHEL BUBLITZ

DIRECTED BY

HANNAH WILBURN

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING


**"A DAY WITH TOMMY
AND LORAINÉ"**

JUKEBOX MUSICAL CONTAINING THE
MUSICAL WRITINGS OF TOM LEHRER

CREATED BY
SAMMI SHUMA

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER
CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

**2023-2024
SEASON**

@MUTheatreandDance 

Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance 

 MESSIAH
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DEPARTMENT OF
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2023-2024 SEASON



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!

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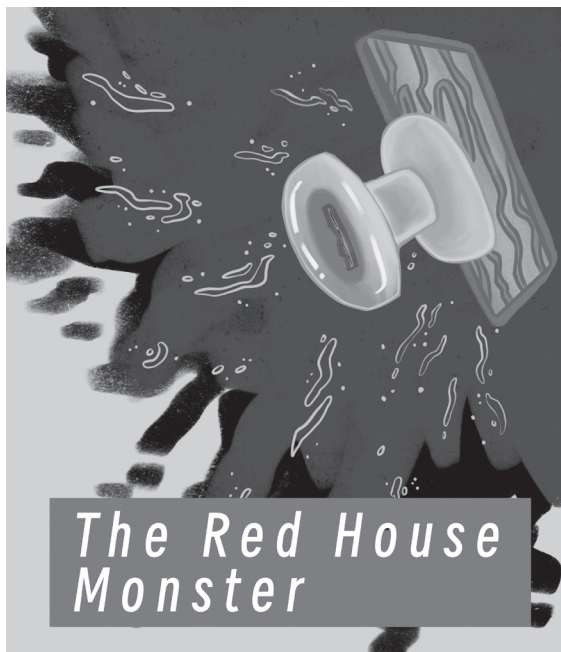
Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance

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

THE RED HOUSE MONSTER BY RACHEL BUBLITZ

Directed by Hannah Wilburn

The Red House Monster is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners. (www.yourstagepartners.com)



CAST

Hannah Gold Alysse Whaley
Cora Gold Hope Knisley
Geryon Gianna Warner
Mother Gold Rebecca Methven
Sheriff Sunny Almeйда

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Hannah Wilburn
Stage Manager Julia Itson
Assistant Stage Manager Megan Eich

Scenic Designer	Hannah Wilburn
Costume/Hair and Makeup Designers.....	Clara Bellot, Eleanor Mund
Lighting Designer	Makayla Peltz
Assistant Lighting Designer	Lea Ratos
Sound Designer	Carmi Wilmot
Properties Master	Reannah Weiss
Show Image Design.....	Hannah Sides
Project Advisor	Ed Cohn
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department.....	Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....	Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager	Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinator	Hannah Wilburn
House Manager	Jack Jones
Light Board Operator	Lea Ratos
Sound Board Operator.....	Julia Itson
Run Crew	Reannah Weiss, Makayla Peltz, Arabella Harbaugh

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Makayla Peltz for composing the melodies sung in this show and to Hannah Sides for designing the show poster used on social media.

SYNOPSIS

Rachel Bublitz’s one-act play, *The Red House Monster*, chronicles the story of Hannah Gold, a young lady living on an island off the coast of Massachusetts in the late 1800s, and the night that changed her life. Filled with small town lore, haunted houses, spirits, monsters, pistols, pie, and mysteries, it is a play that will keep you guessing just what is in the Red House, and who, in fact, you should be afraid of.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always been infatuated with stories, listening to them, reading them, telling them, anything I could do to get connected to characters and learn about their lives. As I got older, my passion for storytelling only continued to grow, and I knew that this is what I wanted to do with my life. As a director, this is my ultimate goal, to tell stories that people will leave the performance being impacted by, and that is what I wanted to challenge myself to do for this senior project.

This process has been nowhere near close to easy. I originally had another show picked out, but after not having enough people show up for auditions, and then not being able to find the people to fill the cast,

I had to change my show. Through the frantic searching for a new one act that I was interested in the story, and could be feasibly be put together in one month, I stumbled across *The Red House Monster*. I was immediately infatuated with this story for a multitude of reasons. It was a story of suspense, myths and legends, telling stories from generation to generation, and keeps the audience on the edge of their seats through the entire performance; but more importantly, the underlying messages are truly beautiful, and gives the show so much purpose and meaning. Even through the funny moments, the scary bits, and suspense of constantly wondering where the plot is going to go, the messages of not judging others, the significance of family, and bravery and determination in all of us pushes through.

I hope as you watch this show, you can enjoy the story for what it is, a suspenseful thriller of a mystical monster and a girl trying to save her sister, but can walk away seeing yourself in these characters, and being impacted by the relationships built in the show, and allow yourself to grow and change how you view and interact with those around you.

Hannah Wilburn, Director

BIOS

Sunny Almeyda (Sheriff) is a junior theatre major who loves Jesus and talking with friends! Previous credits include *Who Will Carry the Word?* (Small Peasant Girl), *Leading Ladies* (Meg), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Hero U/S), and *In The Heights* (Nina). She's grateful to Hannah for giving her this awesome opportunity. She'd also like to thank God, her family, and her amazing boyfriend Micah!

Rachel Bublitz (Author) is an award-winning and internationally produced playwright known for telling stories about women and creating exciting new work for young performers. She is currently the resident playwright of the Egyptian YouTheatre in Park City, Utah. Her plays include: *Ripped* (produced by Z Space and Good Company Theatre), *The Night Witches* (commissioned and produced by Egyptian YouTheatre), *Presenting: Super Cat & Reptile Robot in the Tremendous Tickle Trouble* (commissioned and produced by Plan-B Theatre Company), and *The Summer I Howled* (commissioned and developed with Egyptian YouTheatre). Awards include: Will Glickman Award for Best Bay Area Premiere (*Ripped*), Shubert Fendrich Memorial Playwriting Contest (*Cheerleaders VS. Aliens*), and PlayGround's June Anne Baker Prize (*Reading Babar in 2070*). In addition to her work with Stage Partners, she's published with Dramatic Publishing (*The Night Witches*), Playscripts (*Ghost House* and *Operation Chicken Takeover*), Pioneer Drama Service (*Cheerleaders VS. Aliens*), YouthPLAYS (*The Elves*, and *No Talking Allowed!*), and others. She is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America and

has an MFA from San Francisco State University. When she isn't writing, she's watching her kids dominate at water polo. For more: RachelBublitz.com. (www.yourstagepartners.com)

Hope Knisley (Cora) is ecstatic to play the role of Cora in *The Red House Monster!* This is her first production with the department at Messiah University and was honored to work with such an amazing cast and crew. She is a first-year at Messiah working towards a dual certification in special education and prek-4. She thanks her family, Cody, Tracy, and the Salt 'n Light team for supporting her in her faith and life endeavors!

Rebecca Methven (Mother Gold) is a sophomore at Messiah University. She is incredibly excited to be a part of this production. She has previously been a part of *A Murder is Announced* (Phillipa Haymes), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Mrs. MacAfee), and *Little Shop of Horrors* (Chiffon). She would like to thank all of her friends and family for encouraging her, as well as God for continuing to use her and her talents to praise Him and spread His word. She would also like to thank you for coming, and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Gianna Warner (Geryon) is extremely excited to take part in *The Red House Monster*. Gianna is a sophomore theatre major with an emphasis in acting. Some of her previous roles include Berthe (*Who Will Carry the Word?*), Babette (*Beauty and the Beast*) and Giant/Baby (*Into The Woods*). Gianna is so grateful to take part in this show and is so excited to perform. She would like to thank the cast and crew for their work.

Alysse Whaley (Hannah Gold) is thrilled to be a part of *The Red House Monster*. She is a musical theatre major, whose select credits include Cinderella (*Into the Woods*), Françoise (*Who Will Carry the Word?*), and Lady (*Ladies and Gentlemen, The Rain*). Alysse is very grateful for this amazing opportunity to perform with this wonderful cast and crew.

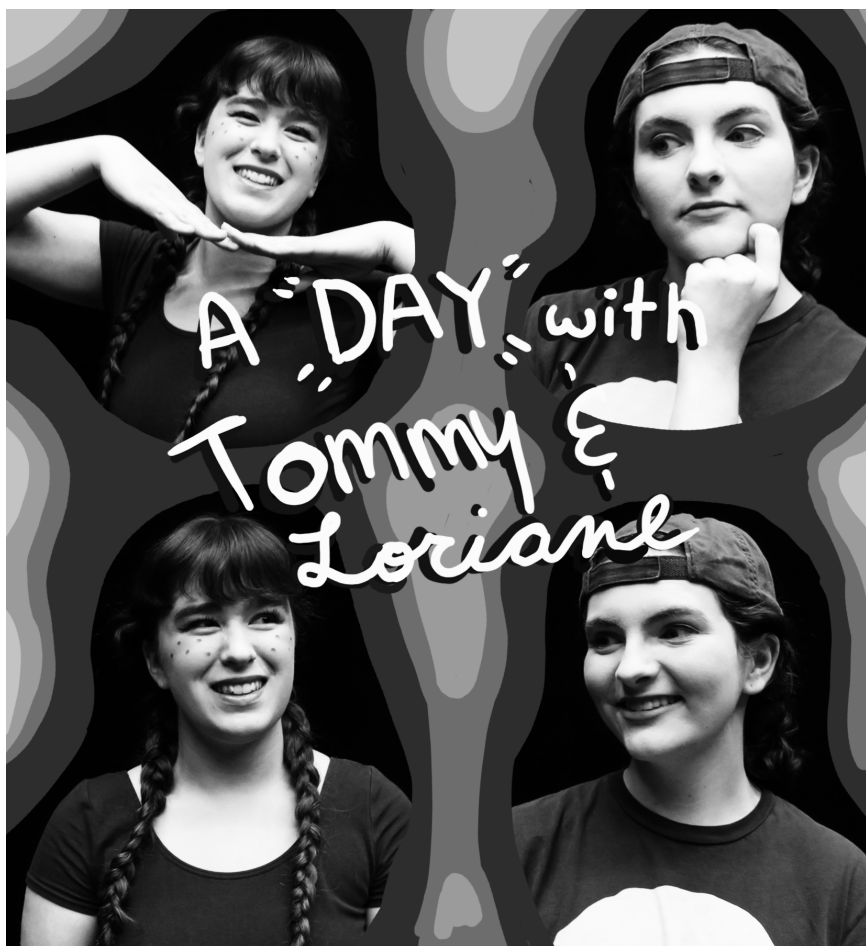
Hannah Wilburn (Director) is a senior theatre major, with a dual concentration in directing and tech and design, and is so excited for the privilege to direct *The Red House Monster!* She has directed many previous projects, including *Get Smart* and *Matilda Jr.* at the Grace Pollock Performing Arts Center and Assistant Director for *Crimes of the Heart* at Messiah University last year. She has also served as the Assistant Artistic Director for the *Frog and Toad Kids Summer Stage* performance at the Pollock Center. She would like to thank her amazing cast and crew for bringing her vision to life, and her family and friends for their constant love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!

There will be one 15-minute intermission between performances.

“A DAY WITH TOMMY AND LORAINÉ”

A jukebox musical featuring
the musical writings of Tom Lehrer

Created by Sammi Shuma



CAST

Tommy Sammi Shuma
Loraine Ashlyn Moore

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Megan Eich
Stage Manager..... Julia Itson
Lighting Designers Makayla Peltz, Lea Ratos
Sound Designer Sammi Shuma
Choreographer..... Sammi Shuma
Project AdvisorEd Cohn
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye
Technical Director.....Benjamin Roberts
Production ManagerPatricia DuBois
Publicity CoordinatorHannah Wilburn
House Manager Jack Jones
Light Board Operator Lea Ratos
Sound Board Operator..... Julia Itson
Crew.....Nathan Steinbach

SPECIAL THANKS

John Devorick, Jenice Riebe and Sydney

A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

Welcome to this day's episode of "A Day with Tommy and Loraine". Watch the day fly by as they prepare for a picnic for their buzzy friends, the Bees. By applying concepts of English and Math, they'll work their way to the best picnic ever. But no adventure is complete without a few bumps in the road. What disaster might ensue? Who knows?! But one thing's for sure, we'll all get through it together!

"A Day with Tommy and Loraine" is a jukebox musical containing the musical writings of Tom Lehrer. A Harvard math professor turned comedic musician, Lehrer used his knowledge of words and numbers to create unexpected material. These songs always brought a smile to my face and I wanted to use them as a vehicle to share the wonders of edutainment and the challenges of perfectionism. Theatre has transformative properties in lots of places, including the classroom. While Tommy and Loraine strive to educate, they are also facing personal hurdles. Life has a way of challenging us in many ways. As actors, we have to find ways to leave our personal lives to make room for the work ahead, as it has the danger of affecting our performances. While we're all trying to succeed in life, we can never grasp anything too tightly, or we'll lose sight of what is really important. Being able to give yourself grace can be a powerful tool. So, I welcome you all to enjoy this little piece of life with us, I am grateful to be sharing this story with you.

Sammi Shuma, Creator

BIOS

Sammi Shuma (Tommy) is a senior musical theatre and film double major who is absolutely ecstatic to be sharing this story with you as Tommy! Previous work includes Emily Wheelock Reed (*Alabama Story*), Wednesday Addams (*Addams Family*), Milky White/Witch U/S (*Into the Woods*) and Lenny Magrath (*Crimes of the Heart*). She is thankful to the Messiah faculty for their guidance, her incredible crew for their talents, and to Ashlyn for her imagination and commitment.

Ashlyn Moore (Loraine) is a junior musical theatre major. Past productions include *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), *Yeomen of the Guard* (Ensemble), *Much Ado About Nothing* (U/S Dogberry), and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena). She is grateful to Sammi for giving her this opportunity, and is happy to be a part of such a fun project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Music written and composed by Tom Lehrer

Music Tracks made by John Devorick, Jenice Reibe and Sammi Shuma

This production features the following musical selections:

“We Will All Go Together When We Go”

Music by Tom Lehrer; Additional music and lyrics by Sammi Shuma

“Silent E” from *Electric Company*

Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

“New Math”

Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

“That’s Mathematics”

Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

“O-U (The Hound Song)” from *Electric Company*

Music by Giuseppe Verdi (“Caro Nome” from *Rigoletto*); Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

“Scenery”

Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

“N Apostrophe T” from *Electric Company*

Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

"Trees"

Original Poem by Joyce Kilmer, Original Music by Oscar Rasbach and adapted
by Tom Lehrer

"S-N" from *Electric Company*
Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

"Poisoning Pigeons in the Park"
Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer; Arrangement by John Devorick

"Selling Out"
Music and Lyrics by Tom Lehrer

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; Miller Theater April 18-19 at 8pm

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