

MESSIAH UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF
THEATRE AND DANCE
PRESENTS



THE SPRING SENIOR SERIES

AN EVENING OF PERFORMANCE
CREATED AND PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT SENIORS

MARCH 22 - 23 @ 8:00 P.M.



"LOVE LETTER" CREATED AND PERFORMED BY **MADALYN OLIVER**

"SEARCHING FOR HOPE" CREATED AND PERFORMED BY **LYDIA MATSON**

"I AM THE FALL" CREATED AND PERFORMED BY **ALYSSE WHALEY**

POORMAN BLACK BOX THEATER CLIMENHAGA BUILDING

2023-2024
SEASON

@MUTheatreandDance 
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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!



@MUTheatreandDance

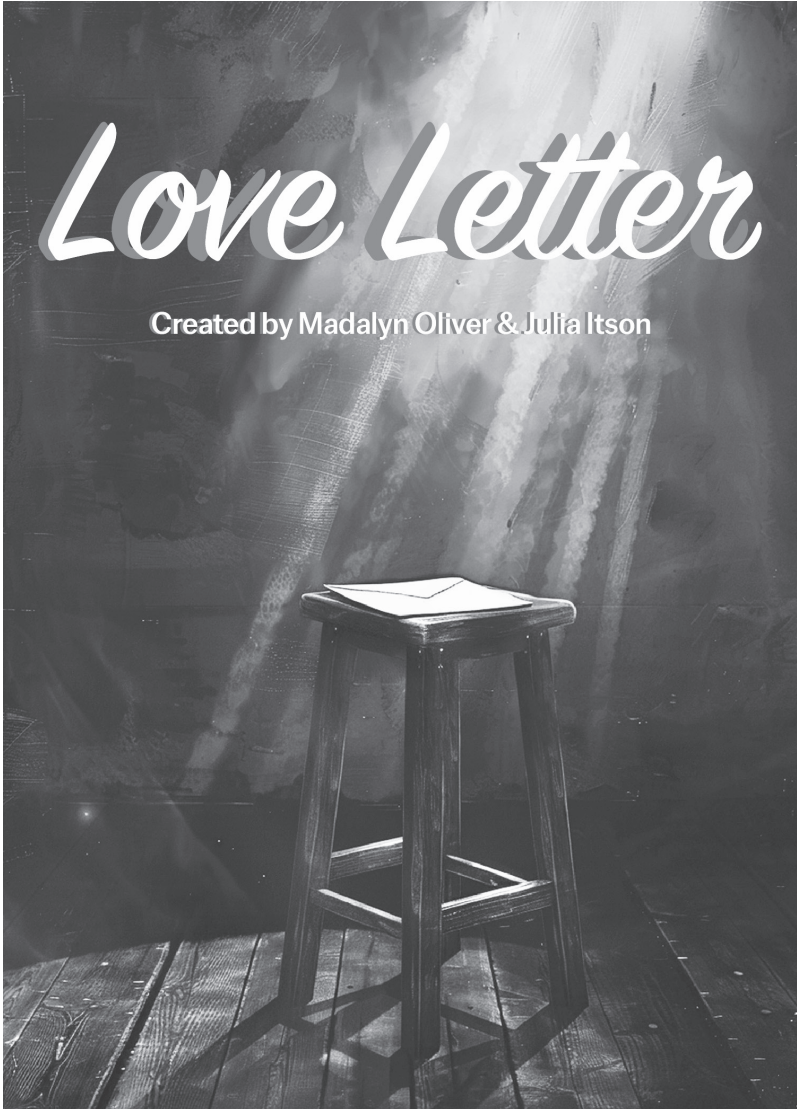


Messiah_Univ_Theatre_and_Dance

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

“LOVE LETTER”

Created and Performed by Madalyn Oliver



CAST

Lily Hennings..... Madalyn Oliver
Grace Coleman..... Julia Itson

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Carmi Wilmot
Stage Manager..... Megan Eich
Lighting Designer Makayla Peltz
Sound Designer Madalyn Oliver
Show Image Design..... Cayly Jones
Project Advisor Daniel Inouye
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye
Technical Director..... Benjamin Roberts
Production Manager Patricia DuBois
Publicity Coordinators Meredith Hensel, Hannah Wilburn
House Manager Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie
Light Board Operator Makayla Peltz
Sound Board Operator..... Abby Crispin

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to my amazing team who are also dear friends for encouraging me throughout this process and my family for believing in me. A very special thanks to Julia for her friendship and generosity to me and helping me stay grounded throughout this process.

A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

This show is very near to my heart especially in my current season of life. When we go through hard times in life, our confidence in our self-worth can sometimes be a vulnerable target. In a world where we constantly self-identify, we can lose sight of the greatest worth we were all given. This project is a love letter to you and to me that no matter what stage of life we're in, there is an ultimate identity in the Lord that is so much greater than any other label or pursuit in life!

Madalyn Oliver, Creator

BIOS

Madalyn Oliver (Lily) is honored to share her senior capstone project “Love Letter” with the Messiah community. Madalyn is a senior theatre major minoring in HDFS. Her roles at Messiah include Madeleine in *Who Will Carry the Word?*, Laura in *The Glass Menagerie*, and Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*. This will be one of her last times on Messiah’s stage. She would like to thank Julia for her dedication to this piece.

Julia Itson (Grace) is a sophomore musical theatre major. Her previous roles include Helene’s Mother (*Who Will Carry the Word?*) and Clairee (*Steel Magnolias*). When not on stage she enjoys listening to podcasts, working in the shop, and spending time with her friends and family. Julia would like to thank Maddy for a wonderful experience and loving friendship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This production features the following musical selection:

“Oil” written and performed by Sarah Juers, featuring Logan Histed

There will be a 10 minute intermission between each performance.

“SEARCHING FOR HOPE”

Created and Performed by Lydia Matson

CAST

Lydia Matson

Eleanor Mund

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Carmi Wilmot

Stage Manager..... Megan Eich

Lighting Designer Makayla Peltz

Sound Designer Alysse Whaley

Project Advisor Daniel Inouye

Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye

Technical Director..... Benjamin Roberts

Production Manager Patricia DuBois

Publicity Coordinators Meredith Hensel, Hannah Wilburn

House Manager Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie

Light Board Operator Makayla Peltz

Sound Board Operator..... Abby Crispin

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this project to life. I would especially like to thank my scene partner, Eleanor, for being an amazing collaborator and helping me realize my vision.

A NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

My show is an exploration of imperfection and humanness. It is based in The Theatre of the Absurd, which is a style that I have developed a strong appreciation for during my time at Messiah. I ask that you come in with an open mind and leave all preconceived ideas of theatre at the door.

Lydia Matson, Creator

BIOS

Lydia Matson is a senior musical theatre major, and has previously played roles such as Stepmother in *Into the Woods*, Henrietta/Margaret U/S in *Silent Sky*, and Margaret in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She is thrilled to have this opportunity to create and perform her own show, and is excited to share her fascination with the theatre of the absurd with you.

Eleanor Mund is a sophomore musical theatre major. Previous roles at Messiah include Denise in *Who Will Carry the Word?*, Meg in *Crimes of the Heart*, and Annie in *Silent Sky*. Eleanor is thrilled to get the chance to work with her mentor Lydia for her senior show. She hopes you enjoy this exploration of the unusual and absurd!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"Alba" by Samuel Beckett

This production features excerpts from the following works:

Company by Samuel Beckett

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett

Three Tall Women by Edward Albee

Hunger and Thirst by Eugene Ionesco

There will be a 10 minute intermission between each performance.

“I AM THE FALL”

Created and Performed by Alysse Whaley

CAST

Alysse Whaley

Alden Walker

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Carmi Wilmot

Music Director..... Alden Walker

Stage Manager..... Megan Eich

Lighting Designer Makayla Peltz

Project Advisor Daniel Inouye

Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department..... Daniel Inouye

Technical Director..... Benjamin Roberts

Production Manager Patricia DuBois

Publicity Coordinators Meredith Hensel, Hannah Wilburn

House Manager Morgan Osborn-Wotthlie

Light Board Operator Makayla Peltz

Sound Board Operator..... Abby Crispin

BIOS

Alysse Whaley is thrilled to be presenting “I Am The Fall”. 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 show this piece that she has put her heart into.

Alden Walker is excited to perform in “I Am The Fall”. He is a commercial music major whose experience playing guitar for nearly a decade has enabled him to be a part of both the theatre and music departments. He would like to thank Alysse for bringing him onto the project and trusting him with such great music.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This production features text from the following sources:

Every Moment Holy by Douglas Kaine McKelvey

The Mysteries: Creation by Bernard Sahlins

Julian of Norwich

Stephen Sondheim

This production features the following musical selections:

“Take the Moment” from *Do I Hear a Waltz?*

Music by Richard Rogers and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

“The Road You Didn’t Take” from *Follies*

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

“Move On” from *Sunday in the Park with George*

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Arranged by Eleri Ward

“I Remember” from *Evening Primrose*

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, Arranged by Eleri Ward

“Spring: Wake” from *Principium* by The Arcadian Wild

“Summer: Walk” from *Principium* by The Arcadian Wild

“Fall: War” from *Principium* by The Arcadian Wild

“Winter: Will” from *Principium* by The Arcadian Wild

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 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 27- 28 at 3 pm