Upcoming Productions

Mad Forest: A play from Romania
By Caryl Churchill
Directed by Christopher Grabowski
Ben Turner ‘23 senior project in Drama
April 26, 27, 28 2023
8:00pm - Martel Theater
General Seating - Reservations required
Open to the Public

The Marilyn Swartz Seven ‘69 Annual Playwriting Award Reading
Fall of 2023
Powerhouse
Recipient: Solomon Hess ‘24
THE GAME
Campus guests only, more details to follow

Reservations
boxoffice@vassar.edu
(845) 437-5599
website: http://drama.vassar.edu
M-F 10:00 am-4:00 pm
Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations or information on accessibility should contact the box office in advance.

The Steerman
New Play Festival

Bemused
by Ellery Cordes ‘23*
directed by Maya Wilson ‘23*
March 30, 31, 2023

Gate Shut Panic
by Zoe Nelms ‘23*
directed by Keira DiGaetano ‘23
March 29 & April 1, 2023

Audience members should be advised that Gate Shut Panic contains depictions of violence and discussion of sexual assault.

Dramaturgy Kathryn Hasson ‘23*

8:00 PM - Powerhouse Theater

*denotes a senior project in Drama
BEMUSED by Ellery Cordes ‘23

Avery is a Classics student just trying to focus on finishing her thesis when she is visited by Erato, the Muse of love poetry, who is intent on playing matchmaker for her. With their help, Avery impossible task of balancing work and love, and how to embrace her identity.

Cast
Avery
Kaitlyn Brady-Gold ‘26
Claire
Faith Hernandez ‘24
James
Joe Lippman ‘26
Professor Miller
Cody Siegel ‘26
Erato
Solstice Lauren ‘26

Production Staff
Playwright
Ellery Cordes*
Director
Maya Wilson*
Intimacy & Fight Coordinator
Michael Rossmay
Dramaturg
Kathryn Hasson*
Stage Manager
Sophie Meieroich ‘24
Lighting Designer
Avery Turnbull ‘26
Costume Coordinator
Yasmin Mohamed ‘23
Scenic and Props Designer
Anna Diamond ‘25
Sound Designer
Ann Goldsmith ‘24
Assistant Set Designer
Estella Zacharia ‘23
Light & Sound Board Op
Jackson Bernreuter ‘24
Set Build Crew/ Run Crew
Lilly Masters ‘26
Production Assistant
Rebecca King ‘26
Prop Build Crew
Sydney Duncan ‘24
Costume Run Crew
Alex Papasavas ‘23
Lighting Build Crew
Charlotte Harter ‘23
Actor Representative
Kyra Lauren ‘26

*denotes senior project in drama

Drama Department Workstudy Students

Costume Shop
Interns: Matt Andres ‘23, Hanh Rioux ‘23
Costume History & Design Research Assistant: Presley Wheeler ‘23
Costume Collection Research Assistant: Hannah Weintraub ‘25
Costume Shop Tech:


Electrics Shop
Lighting Interns: Laurel Hanson ‘23, Xander Setchko ‘24
Electrics Crew:

Jackson Bernreuter ‘24, Grayson Bullard ‘26, Harry Malins ‘26, Erin Mee ‘24, Avery Nahf ‘26, Ki’tsai Zangpo ‘25, Eden O’Connell ‘23

Scenic Shop
Scenic Intern: Riley Bates ‘24
Shop Intern: Jack Francis ‘23
Assistants:

Gate Shut Panic by Zoe Nelms ‘23

It’s 2008. Anna and Claire, like all normal girls, love three things: J-14 magazine quizzes, the discography of Britney Spears, and mutually assured psychological destruction. When Anna kidnaps her ex-boyfriend Dave, the sisters’ twisted domesticity is thrown into a tailspin, as Dave’s presence reveals the cracks in their relationship. A look at morbid thoughts and their gory consequences, Gate Shut Panic is a pitch-black comedy about sisterly instinct gone terribly wrong.

Cast

Anna             Ivy Schenk ‘25
Claire         Alice Downer ‘23
Dave          Sam Geesing ‘24

Production Staff

Playwright                 Zoe Nelms*
Director              Keira DiGaetano ‘23
Intimacy and Fight Coordinator       Michael Rossmy
Dramaturg          Kathryn Hasson*
Stage Manager       Yining Shang ‘25
Lighting Designer      Avery Turnbull ‘26
Scenic and Props Designer                Anna Diamond ‘25
Sound Designer               Ann Goldsmith ‘24
Costume Designer              Madison Powell ‘23
Light & Sound Board Op         Jackson Bernreuter ‘24
Production Assistant        Rebecca King ‘26
Run Crew/Build Crew       Lilly Masters ‘26
Costume Run Crew        Alex Papasavas ‘23
Costume Build Crew      Margaret Ryan-Byrne ‘25
Electrics Crew               Sophie Wigington ‘25
Set Build Crew         Charlotte Harter ‘23
Props Build Assistant  Samuel Tang ‘25

*denotes senior project in drama
PROFESSOR EMERITUS of DRAMA JAMES STEERMAN

James B. Steerman joined the Vassar College drama faculty in the fall of 1967. He had completed an MFA in play-writing and dramatic literature at the Yale School of Drama in 1962 and was finishing coursework for a DFÅ at Yale in the same fields when he arrived at Vassar. At Vassar, James initially taught dramatic literature and playwriting and later added classes in film. He also continued to write original stage plays and occasionally a screenplay. A stage play, NATIVE STONE, won a national playwriting competition, was produced by several regional repertory companies and was eventually published. A number of his other original plays, including OPHELIA and SUNSET ISLAND, were produced in New York City.

At Vassar, James soon completed the DFÅ and eventually became professor of drama and also served as chair of the department. In the early 1990s, he helped create a Department of Film at the college and served as chair of both drama and film. Also in the 1990s, James helped persuade the then President of Vassar, Frances Fergusson, that a new building was needed to serve the rapidly growing needs of both drama and film. Designed by Cesar Pelli, the Vogelstein Center for Drama and Film became home to the drama and film departments in 2003.

During the first decade of the 21st century, James continued to write plays and offer courses in both drama and film. He served as chair of the two departments and oversaw their continuing development. He also helped create an annual playwriting competition for students. James retired from Vassar as Professor Emeritus of Drama and Film in early 2011.

Steerman Production Staff

Production Stage Manager: Patience Haskell
Dramaturgy: Kathryn Hasson*
Sound Designer: Anne Goldsmith ’24
Production Assistant: Rebecca King ’26
Properties Build Assistant: Sydney Duncan ’24
Scenic Designer: Anna Diamond ’25
Assistant Set Design: Estella Zacharia ’23

About the Festival by Professor Peter Gil-Sheridan

Our Drama Department has made an extraordinary commitment to new work by creating space for our students to learn the art of playwriting. A vital part of learning to write plays is to see them realized and that is why I’m so honored to work at a college that makes space for new student written work in their season. The tremendous effort students, staff, and faculty make to produce this Festival is truly inspiring. Ellery and Zoe are just two of the many talented students and alums from Vassar who are contributing to the landscape of new work in the American Theatre. Keep your eye on these Vassar writers. They have things to say. They write with passion. They experiment. They create new worlds. I’m deeply proud to be a part of it.

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