

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 Experimental Theater of Vassar College

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

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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 Rossmey
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

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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:

Evelyn Boyle '23, Simeon Bremer '23, Celeste Brinkhuis '24, Mahalia Hunter '23, Georgia Macy '24, Yasmin Mohammed '23, Gus Pointer Mace '25, Madison Powell '23, Eden Radifera '26, Athena Randall '25, Foster Schrader '25, Taylor Talcott '23, Jazmine Williams '26

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:

Becca Bogstad '26, Lucinda Carroll '24, Zach Cohen '24, Eli Levitt '24, Alex Roth '24, Aiden Skelly '26, Jasper Smith '25, Avery Turnbull '26, Jamie Walsh '25, Kendall Wienecke '24

Drama Department Faculty and Staff

Director of Theater	Christopher Grabowski
Costume Design	Kenisha Kelly
Production Manager	Patience Haskell
Technical Director	James Hunting
Costume Shop Manager	Leigh Davis
Publicity/Box Office/Front of House	Joan Gerardi

Drama Department Interns

Production Management	Maggie Young '25
Stage Management	Kelly Hatfield '23

Drama Box Office Staff

Assistants:	Sophia Fredericks '26
	Tim Nguyen '23
	Alejandra Robins '24
Drama Department Photographer:	Ana Leon Urrutia '26

Ushers

Joe Baldwin '24, Erin Mee '24, Sydney Petrie '26, Leila Stark '26

Special Thanks

BEMUSED TEAM:

The Night Owls, Idlewild, Greek & Roman Studies Department, Kaila Dunn '25, Carter Beers, Gabrielle Cody, The Evert Sprinchorn Estate, Filo Gil-Sheridan, Sappho, Zoë Zahariadis '21, Naima Saini '23

GATE SHUT PANIC TEAM :

Joe Nelms, Amy Nelms, Hannah Oppenheim '23, Theo Duclo '23, Idlewild Theatre Ensemble

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 Rossmly
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
	Sydney Duncan '24

*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 DFA 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 DFA 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
Dramaturgy
Sound Designer
Production Assistant
Properties Build Assistant
Scenic Designer
Assistant Set Design

Patience Haskell
Kathryn Hasson*
Anne Goldsmith '24
Rebecca King '26
Sydney Duncan '24
Anna Diamond '25
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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