Upcoming Productions

Fury
By Sydney Duncan ‘24*
Directed by Ella Talerico ‘25
November 30 & December 1, 2023

The Game
by Solomon Hess ‘24
Recipient of the Marilyn Swartz Seven ‘69 Annual Playwriting Award
Directed by Mauricio Miranda
A reading part of MODFEST Festival
January 26 8:00pm and January 27 2:00pm  Powerhouse Theater

Skin
By Naomi Iizuka
Directed by Liz Dahmen
Senior Project Members Erin Mee, Matthew Fisher, Vi To
February 22, 23, 24 8:00pm  Powerhouse Theater
SKIN is produced by special arrangement with THE GERSH AGENCY, 41 Madison Avenue, 29th Floor, NYC 10010

Hippolyta
By Madeleine George
Directed by Kendall Wienecke ‘24*
Senior Project Members: Kendall Wienecke, Anica Acuna-Gallardo, Riley Bates
March 28, 29, 30 8:00pm  The Martel Theater
Special arrangement made through Concord Theatricals. Sponsored in part by the E.J. Safirstein ‘83 Memorial Fund

Or,
By Liz Duffy Adams
Directed by Conrad Schott
Senior Project Members: Faith Hernandez, Maddie Brigman, Sam Geesing
April 18, 19, 20 8:00pm  Powerhouse Theater
OR, is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service

*Denotes senior project member

Bacchanal
Written by Stefen Dodson ‘24*
Directed by Christopher Grabowski
Steerman New Play Series
November 29 & December 2, 2023
8:00pm
Powerhouse Theater

Email: boxoffice@vassar.edu
Call: (845) 437-5599
Website: http://drama.vassar.edu
Individuals requiring accommodations should contact the box office in advance.
CAST
Georgia                       Alissa Seedansingh ‘26
Kingston                       Damon Dennis
Kimona                    Eden Radifera ‘26
Pam                            Elena Henderson-Downey ‘24
Ciriana                          Zerah Ruiz ‘25
Lauren                          Katie Brady-Gold ‘26
Dexter                   Andres Almonte ‘24

PRODUCTION
Playwright     Stefen Dodson ‘24*
Director    Christopher Grabowski
Assistant Director     Tess Foley-Cox ‘26
Stage Manager         Yining Shang ‘25
Choreographer                 Grace Fure ‘27
Movement Advisor        Hannah Gaff
Sound Designer                                                  Stefen Dodson ‘24*
Lighting Designer     Faith Hernandez ‘24
Scenic/Props Designer        Aidan Skelly ‘26
Costume Designer               Kenisha Kelly
Casting Consultant              Heidi Eklund/hudsonvalleycasting.com
Light & Sound Board Operator  Jamie Walsh ‘25
Run Crew                          Joe Lippman ‘26
Run Crew                          Mia LaBianca ‘26
Costume Run Crew                Molly Stern ‘25

* Denotes senior project member

DRAMA DEPARTMENT WORK STUDY STUDENTS

Costume Shop
Interns: Celeste Brinkhuis ‘24, Madison Powell ‘24,
Jazmine Williams ‘26
Costume History & Design Research: W. Ashton Scott ‘26
Costume Collection Research Assistant: August Pointer Mace ‘26
Costume Shop Technicians: Grace Fure ‘27, Eli Hinerfeld ‘24,
Majka Kiely-Miller ‘27, Georgia Macy ‘24,
Elsie McKendry ‘26, Noe Perry-Greene ‘26, Eden Radifera ‘26,
Emma Raff ‘26, Anisa Schmeil ‘27, Ava Sclafani ‘25,
Abigail Straus ‘25, Jazmine Williams ‘26

Electrics Shop
Lighting Intern: Xander Setchko ‘24
Electrics Crew: Willow Eaton ‘27, Devin Gearty’25,
Harry Malins ‘26, Erin Mee ‘24, Eliana Mor ‘27,
Avery Nahf ‘26, Ella Talerico ‘25, Ki’tsai Zangpo ‘25

Scenic Shop
Scenic Intern: Riley Bates ‘24
Scenic Crew: Becca Bogstad ‘26, Zach Cohen ‘24,
Eli Levitt ‘24, Alex Roth ‘24, Maria Shansonga ‘27,
Aiden Skelly ‘26, Jasper Smith ‘25, Avery Turnbull ‘26,
Jamie Walsh ‘25, Kendall Wienecke ‘24, Yuchen Zhou ‘24
DRAMA DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Director of Theater Peter Gil Sheridan
Costume Design Kenisha Kelly
Production Manager Patience Haskell
Technical Director James Hunting
Costume Shop Manager Leigh Davis
Scenic Design Dan Daly
Publicity/Box Office/Front of House Joan Gerardi

Drama Department Interns
Production Management Maggie Young ‘25
Stage Management Anica Acuña ‘24

Drama Box Office Staff
Assistants: Miriam Barker ‘27
Sophia Fredericks ‘26
Alejandra Robins ‘24
Drama Department Photographer: Quin Taylor ‘27

Ushers
Kate Powell ‘27, Justine Rabley ‘27, Keilee Takata ‘27,
Fig Whitehead ‘26, Javier Wilson ‘27

SPECIAL THANKS

God (Big Homie G)
My parents
My grandparents
My family
LP
My friends
The Caribbean
The Drama Department & Vassar College
Kimberly Williams Brown
Dean Wendy Maragh Taylor
Tyrone Simpson
Talent Davis & JahDey Wright

All who auditioned and patiently waited for results!

&

Last but certainly not least: my cast and crew, who realized my written work with high fidelity and helped me improve my play!

Alla wunna di best!
A MESSAGE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT, 
STEFEN DODSON ‘24*

Welcome to the world premiere of my play, Bacchanal, happening nowhere else in the world but Vassar College! :D

I’m excited for this opportunity to share my art with you tonight, to both enjoy it with you and hear your thoughts afterwards. Bacchanal is one of my experiments in broaching complex topics (e.g., racism, infidelity, religion, etc.) in a jovial and thoughtful manner, and in a way that reflects real life and not some form of polished idealism.

Furthermore, Bacchanal has been a project aimed at increasing racioethnic representation on the stage. My lovely cast is composed of a majority of students of color (6/7), with ethnic ties to several Caribbean countries, including, inter alia, Trinidad, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. Given that my own family hails from Barbados, Trinidad, and Colombia, it was important for me to provide stage presence to a diverse group of students.

In many ways, Bacchanal is a piece of opposition to hegemonic whiteness. In its subject matter, musical composition, and efforts in representation, Bacchanal reminds us of the beauty of communities of color and what we have to express. Writing, casting, and producing this piece was no easy feat at a primarily white institution, yet still the story commanded to be told. I’m grateful to all who helped make this happen.

So tonight, I hope you sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR OF THEATER
PETER GIL-SHERIDAN

The Steerman Festival has changed this year. For our 4th iteration of brand new work written by our Seniors, the Steerman Festival has become The Steerman Series. The series is named for James Steerman to honor his work as the longtime chair of the Drama and Film Department. The Drama Department hoped to support the 5 writers who wished to see their plays produced. But we also recognized what a major undertaking that has been to do all of them in one or two back to back weekends.

When I came to Vassar three years ago, I’d hoped to build a robust festival of new work that showcased our student’s ingenuity and vision for the future of American Theatre. Through the hard work of our students, faculty, and staff, Vassar has become a place where new work by living writers is at the heart of our curriculum and season.

Solomon Hess was up first with his solo performance piece, When I Grow Up, a comic rendering of his journey from childhood to adulthood. In early November, Jean Fassler will premiere their play Seven Minutes and Joe Baldwin will premiere his play Forever and Sometimes, two plays that wrestle with mortality and the meaning of why we live. And in December we’ll enter Stefen Dodson’s world through his play Bacchanal, the story of young Caribbean-Americans navigating life and love in New York. We’ll also be introduced to Sydney Duncan’s, Fury, a modern re-telling of the Oresteia.

I continue to be filled with pride that I work at a college that puts so many resources and so much care into the realization of new work. Alongside the writers, our designers and technicians are building new worlds, our actors are originating roles that have never been filled, and our directors are interpreting ever-shifting texts to bring the writer’s best vision to life. It’s an enormous undertaking and I am grateful to you, our community, for giving audience to these original dramas.