

Upcoming Productions

Bacchanal

By Stefen Dodson '24*
Directed by Christopher Grabowski
November 29 & December 2, 2023

Spring 2024

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 Elizabeth Dahmen
Senior Project Members: Matthew Fisher, Erin Mee, 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

Hurricane Diane

By Madeleine George
Directed by Kendall Wienecke '24*
Senior Project Members: Riley Bates, Anica Acuna, Kendall Wienecke
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: Maddie Brigman, Sam Geesing Faith Hernandez
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

Email: boxoffice@vassar.edu

Call: (845) 437-5599

Website: <http://drama.vassar.edu>



Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations or information on accessibility should contact the box office in advance.



Fury

Written by Sydney Duncan '24*

Directed by Ella Talerico '25

Steerman New Play Series

November 30 & December 1, 2023

8:00pm

Powerhouse Theater

*Denotes senior project member



CAST

Agamemnon	Yuchen Zhou '24*
Clytemnestra	Grace Miller '24*
Iphigenia	Georgia Macy '24
Electra	Tori Kim '25
Orestes	Levi Srebalus '26
Pylades	Thomas Freilich '24

PRODUCTION

Playwright	Sydney Duncan '24*
Director	Ella Talerico '25
Stage Manager	Matthew Fisher '24
Lighting Designer	Faith Hernandez '24
Scenic/Props Designer	Anna Diamond '25
Movement Director/Acting Coach	Hannah Gaff
Costume Designer	Maggie Young '25
Sound Designer	Avery Duer '24
Dramaturg & Painter Electra Artwork	Tori Kim '25
Light & Sound Board Operator	Jamie Walsh '25
Run Crew	Joe Lippman '26
Run Crew	Mia LaBianca '26
Costume Run Crew	Molly Stern '25
Actor Representative	Tori Kim '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 Assistant:

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

Shop Assistants: 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: Ada Goney '27, Ada Lovelace '27, Nicholas Monsion '27

SPECIAL THANKS:

Ianthe Demos '00 and One Year Lease Theater Company

Tom Pacio

Christine Howlett

Kendall Wienecke

Jacque and Keith Duncan

Idlewild Theatre Ensemble

Night Owls

Margot Gordinier

Katie Brady-Gold

Anna Talerico, Justin Talerico, and Rylan Talerico

Sydney and Ella

and the rest of the team of actors, crew and management!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT SYDNEY DUNCAN '24*

I spent most of my life being afraid. Visceral fear that sends shockwaves through every part of my body. My solution was to find an escape in the mind. The mind is rational, and can protect you; the body is ridiculous, emotional, and must be subdued so that things can function as normal. If the body tried to scream, I could escape into the intellectual world, where I didn't feel anything unpleasant because I wasn't allowed to feel anything at all. This, of course, didn't work. I am a body, and to ignore my body is to ignore myself. I learned that if you ignore yourself, eventually something will explode. You have to face it — whatever it is — headfirst.

All of this to say: this play is an adaptation of the Oresteia, but it's also about my struggle with my life and myself; the things that have happened to me that I want to forget, and the ways in which I still feel them. This is what I love about adapting old stories — they are so wonderfully manipulatable.

I didn't truly realize how close this play was to my heart, though, until I was in the room with all of the wonderful people I had the pleasure of collaborating with. I thought I was just throwing words down until they fit somewhere. I didn't realize the act of writing was actually closer to reaching down my own throat for little parts of myself I needed to give to somebody else. And what a gift I was given, that the people I entrusted those pieces to treated them with so much care, dedication, and love. It means more to me than I could possibly express. Words aren't enough. Nothing is enough. In some ways, that's the beauty of it.

A MESSAGE FROM PROFESSOR 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 premiered their play *Seven Minutes* and Joe Baldwin premiered his play *Forever and Sometimes*, two plays that wrestle with mortality and the meaning of why we live. And now 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 continued 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.