Upcoming Productions

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

Bacchanal
By Stefan 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
November 30 & December 1, 2023
8:00pm
Powerhouse Theater

Exhibiting Art
by Solomon Hess ‘24
Recipient of the Marilyn Swartz Seven ‘69 Annual Playwriting Award
Directed by Mauricio Miranda
A reading part of MODFEST Festival
February 22, 23, 24
8:00pm
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

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

*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.
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director of Theater</td>
<td>Peter Gil-Sheridan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Costume Design</td>
<td>Kenisha Kelly</td>
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<td>Production Manager</td>
<td>Patience Haskell</td>
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<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>James Hunting</td>
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<td>Costume Shop Manager</td>
<td>Leigh Davis</td>
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<td>Scenic Design</td>
<td>Dan Daly</td>
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<td>Publicity/Box Office/Front of House</td>
<td>Joan Gerardi</td>
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**Drama Department Interns**

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<th>Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Management</td>
<td>Maggie Young ‘25</td>
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<td>Stage Management</td>
<td>Anica Acuña ‘24</td>
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**Drama Box Office Staff**

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<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assistants:</td>
<td>Miriam Barker ‘27</td>
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<td>Sophia Fredericks ‘26</td>
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<td>Alejandra Robins ‘24</td>
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<td>Drama Department Photographer</td>
<td>Quin Taylor ‘27</td>
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**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.