**Upcoming Productions**

**Fall 2023**
- **Forever and Sometimes**
  - By Joe Baldwin ‘24*
  - Directed by Claire McHarg*
  - November 2 & 3, 2023

- **Seven Minutes**
  - By Jean Fassler ‘24*
  - Directed by Abby Bettencourt ‘25
  - November 1 & 4, 2023

- **Bacchanal**
  - By Stefan Dodson ‘24*
  - Directed by Christopher Grabowski
  - November 29 & December 2, 2023

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

**Spring 2024**
- **The Game**
  - Written by Solomon Hess ‘24*
  - Directed by Grace Cazzaniga ‘24
  - October 5 & 6, 2023
  - 8:00pm

  - Modfest reading
  - Powerhouse Theater
  - January 26 8:00pm

- **Skin**
  - Written by Naomi Iizuka
  - February 22, 23, 24 8:00pm

  - SKIN is produced by special arrangement with THE
    GERSH AGENCY, 41 Madison Avenue, 29th Floor, New
    York, NY 10010

- **Hurricane Diane**
  - By Madeleine George
  - Directed by Kendall Wienecke* ‘24
  - March 28, 29, 30 8:00pm

  - Special arrangement made through Concord Theatricals.
  - Sponsored in part by the E. J. Safirstein ’83 Memorial Fund

- **Or**
  - By Liz Duffy Adams
  - April 18, 19, 20 8:00pm

  - OR, is presented by special arrangement with Broadway
    Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service

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Email: boxoffice@vassar.edu
Call: (845) 437-5599
Website: http://drama.vassar.edu

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Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations or information on accessibility should contact the box office in advance.
CAST (in order of appearance)

Solomon                                                                 Solomon Hess ‘24 *

PRODUCTION

Playwright               Solomon Hess ‘24 *
Director                  Grace Cazzaniga ‘24
Scenic Designer           Dan Daly
Stage Manager             Isaac Steinberg ‘26
Lighting/Projections Designer      Angelina Papa ‘24
Scenic/Props Designer       Levi Srebalus ‘26
Music Supervisor           Thomas Freilich ‘24
Sound Consultant           Ki’tsai Zangpo ‘25
Light & Sound Board Operator  Katie Brady-Gold ‘26
Additional Voices         Alex Peña ‘24, Yuchen Zhou ‘24

* 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 ‘27
A MESSAGE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT,
SOLOMON HESS ‘24*

What to say, what to say; how do you decide what to say when this whole stupid show is about you? Or the “heightened character.” What to say without giving too much away? I have been thinking about what this would look like for almost three years now. I sought to blur the lines of stand-up and theatre and to make it introspective and deep and blahblahblah nothing revolutionary, but it felt like the best way to summarize my college education: doing too much too fast. Even that isn’t entirely unique. At the very least, I wanted to entertain; because to me, that is the purpose of the stage, a place for escape through entertainment. The first stage I really remember being on was the field. I loved organized sports since rec soccer and little league baseball, even if I was doing more wrestling or nose picking than actual playing. But that was my stage, that’s where I loved to perform first and where I felt the most at home for a long time. As I got more serious about sports though, in late middle school/early high school, it became less of a stage, less fun.

The pressure put on me by others, as well as myself, made me hate playing games designed to be a fun escape from reality. Unfortunately, I didn’t feel I had a place to talk about these changes and the toll they were taking on me, certainly not within any of my athletic communities. That’s why I’ve partnered with Morgan’s Message, a non-profit organization focused on de-stigmatizing the conversations surrounding mental health in the student athlete community and equalizing the treatment of physical and mental health in athletics. You can learn more about them at MorgansMessage.org and in the lobby after the show. Right now, get comfy, cozy, and ready for a show critics have called “a real hoot!”
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 is 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.

SPECIAL THANKS

John McCreery
Ivy McWilliams
Maria Idoni
The Womp Haus
The Bocklet Family
Marc, Jennifer, and Selah Hess