

Ruth Easton Endowment for Dramatic Arts

The Theater and Dance Department is grateful to the Ruth Easton Endowment for the Dramatic Arts for its support of many Theater and Dance Department activities.

Ruth Edelstein Easton, Macalester Class of 1921, was born and raised in North Branch, Minnesota. After graduation, Ruth studied for a year at Macalester before leaving the Midwest to pursue an acting career in Los Angeles. From there, she moved to New York City, where a friend introduced her to producer Oliver Morosco. Soon after, Ruth was on Broadway, acting with stars such as Clark Gable, Douglas Fairbanks, Ethel Barrymore, Judith Anderson, Walter Huston, and Al Jolson. She was also actively involved in radio dramas, performing in such shows as “The Rudy Valle Hour” and “The Fleischmann’s Yeast Hour.”

Later inheriting the fortune of her brothers—Dave and Jack Edelstein, who invented a paper-coating process considered the predecessor of plastic wrap—Ruth donated both time and money to acting programs throughout the country. She served as a benefactor for many Twin Cities theaters, including the Ordway, Theatre de la Jeune Lune, and the Playwrights’ Center.

When Ruth Edelstein Easton passed away in 1998, the Ruth Easton Endowment Fund was her gift to Macalester. The fund supports cooperation between the Theater and Dance Department and educational sites in the community, as well as bringing guests to campus.

About Theater and Dance at Macalester

The Theater and Dance Department at Macalester College prepares the next generation of performers, directors, choreographers, designers, researchers, technicians, and playwrights. Our department offers small academic and studio courses in which students are closely mentored by expert faculty. In our class schedule, you will find a variety of theater and dance courses at all levels. We encourage students without previous experience to try a beginning course in acting, dance, design, or playwriting.

Macalester College is in a privileged location for students interested in the arts. The Twin Cities have the second highest number of theater companies per capita in the United States, after New York City, and Theater and Dance Department courses commonly bring students to on and off-campus theater and dance productions. Many Theater and Dance alumni continue to work and produce art in the Twin Cities, where the Minnesota State Arts Board provides crucial funding and support to artistic work. Current students often have the opportunity to meet influential local alumni, leading to exciting and unique opportunities for internships, mentorship, and collaborative projects.

2022 FAMILY FEST

THEATER & DANCE DEPARTMENT

October 14th 6 & 7pm

October 15th 6pm

Huber-Seikaly Theater T004

***Theater and Dance Student Voices
Presents***

Nicola Wong presents a dance piece she developed during the Theater and Dance Department Late Summer Residency at Tofté Lake Center in Ely, MN.

Clara Miller shares work she developed in THDA242, Playwriting: a couple of scenes about the complicated and conflicting relationships we have with our loved ones.

Anna Schloerb brings us a song about the power of connection.

The Bereaved

Prior to the scenes that will be read today, this play follows the funeral and wake of a man named George. In his eulogies and the more private conversations occurring between his friends and loved ones, we see the conflicting nature of our public versus private lives, and in the identities of a father, husband, worker and ladies-man that are often at odds with each other. I wrote this play in my freshman year to explore the complicated and often conflicting identities our loved ones hold. I've found that one of the hardest parts of growing up is discovering that most of life exists in a gray area, and I wanted to explore that idea through a creative medium. And so "The Bereaved" was born.

Written and Directed by:

Clara Miller '25

Performers :

Ryan Cotter '24

Lucy McNees '25

Tyler Osmond '25

(each performer will be reading different parts in every scene)

"u is for universe"

My piece (u is for universe) is a commentary on human interactions and connection to our environment on a grand scale. My audio was made during an artist's residency in Minnesota this summer, and movement for this piece stems from improv work I've done at various outdoor music and 'movement mediation' events for Wavelets Creative, a community arts org that centers "immersive arts experiences" in our Twin Cities area.

Directed and performed by :

Nicola Wong

« Where Do We Go From Here » From Amelie the Musical

This song comes from the 2017 musical adaptation of the film Amelie: a production that has been long adored by our team. This number, which is the final song in the show, presents the lead characters, Amelie and Nino, sharing a moment of intimacy after chasing after one another throughout the show. This invokes an unexpected anxiety in the both of them regarding the future of their relationship. With this, the song explores the balance of enjoying the present moment with those you care about while coming to peace with the uncertainty of the future. When life becomes stressful, turbulent, or unpredictable, it is an important message to consider; we can give grace to ourselves to find peace with that which we can not foresee.

Directed by:

Patrick Coy-Bjork

Performers:

Anna Schloerb '23

John Oatney '23

Patrick Coy-Bjork '24

Additional Bios:

Patrick Coy-Bjork (he/they) is a junior at Macalester majoring in Theatre and English. When not doing theatre, Patrick likes to play music, read, and watch reality TV. Thank you to Anna and John for taking on this project and being such wonderful performers and people.

John Oatney (they/he) is a senior Anthropology major who has had their fingers in theatre and music since the beginning of their time at Mac and well before then. They are excited to take the stage again for the first time since Angels in America last fall, especially with their cast mate, choir mate, and good friend, Anna.

Theater and Dance Department 2022-2023

Faculty

Patricia Brown, Wynn Fricke, Mina Kinukawa, Randy Reyes, and Cláudia Tatinge Nascimento (Chair), kt shorb

Staff

Oscar Amaya, Tom Barret, Brian Fox, MaryBeth Gagner, and Wu Chen Khoo

Visiting Artists and NNT Faculty

Sarah Bahr, Barbra Berlovitz, Cheryl Moore Brinkley, Karen L. Charles, Katharine Horowitz, Kaori Kenmotsu, Krista Langberg, Jill Lile, Cristina Lugarraza, Courtney Meaker, Bob Rosen, Toni Pierce-Sands, Marciano Silva dos Santos, Davey Steinman, and Wendy Weckwerth

Student Staff

Alice Bjerneberg, Julia Brandfonberner, Jessica Chen, Caroline Davis, Rory Donaghy, Bella Flanders, Quintin Grabowski, Isaac Gregory, Rene'e Gonzales, Chiara Guglielmo, Kitty Jiang, Minori Kishi, Gretta Koppers, Thant Kyaw, Lucas Martin, Macie McIlvain, Lucy McNees, Ally Mueller, Keelin Murphy, Lizzie Nelson, Linh Nguyen, Maya Schaefer-Fiello, Lila Schisgal, Evan Trier, Emery Todd, Joy Wen, Adrien Wright, Kai Yamanishi, and Lucia Zuvela