Nebraska Wesleyan University THEATRE presents ...

Fresh Voices: SPOTTING THE FUTURE

An original musical experience composed by guest artists around the country.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Anne McAlexander
Co-Music Directors: Talea Bloch, Julie Wilshusen
Accompanist: Cathi Wagner
Assistant Director: Jaylin Wiese
Stage Manager: Sierra Smith
Assistant Stage Manager: Emma Stratton
Costume and Technical Coordinator: Rebecca Armstrong
Lighting Designer: Josh Brauer
Projection Designer: Tanner Langemeier
Projection Engineer: Josh Brauer
Video Editor: Kyle Goeken
Facility Support: Jared Alberico, Sheila Brunkhorst

Order tickets online / get latest details about productions, tickets and safety measures nebrwesleyan.edu/theatre

Call or email the box office
402.465.2384
Monday–Friday, 3–5 p.m.
theatre@nebrwesleyan.edu
Nebraska Wesleyan University presents...

FRESH VOICES: SPOTLIGHTING THE FUTURE

“Connect”.................................................................Hope Jimenez, Raimy O. Washington, Natalie Crane
Music and Lyrics by: Georgia Stitt

“Will You Come Home with Me Tonight?”..............................Reanna Rohrer
From the short musical Wallflower Suite
Music and Lyrics by: Ben Caplan

“Wallflower”.................................................................................................................. Tylie Tingelhoff, Amanda King
From the musical We Are the Tigers
Music and Lyrics by: Preston Max Allen

“Legacy”........................................................................................................ Natalie Crane, Elke Myers, Lea Ramos
Commissioned by NWU
Music and Lyrics by: Kyle Segar

“Tennessee”........................................................................................................ Hope Jimenez
From the new musical Jeanette
Music and Lyrics by: Ari Afsar

“Thinking of You”..................................................................................... John Alden
From the musical Years
Music and Lyrics by Kyle Segar
Piano Arrangements by Jeremy Plott

“Song for a Little Girl”.................................................... Hope Jimenez, Tylie Tingelhoff, Amanda King
From the musical Vengeance
Music and Lyrics by: Kailey Marshall
Arrangement by Macy Schmidt

“How Bad Could It Be?”..................................................... Alex Rownd, Elke Myers
Commissioned by NWU
Music and Lyrics by: Brandon James Gwinn

“Losing Face”........................................................................................................ John Alden
From the new musical Jeanette
Music and Lyrics by: Ari Afsar

“Gonna Get Git”..................................................................................................... Theresa Chambers, Kaylee Baker
From the musical Vengeance
Music and Lyrics by: Kailey Marshall
Arrangement by Macy Schmidt

“War of the Races”..................................................................................................... Kristia Golightly
From the musical Skin Deep
Music by Ben Krauss
Lyrics by Sukari Jones

“Shine”....................................................................................................................... Drew Sinnard, Tylie Tingelhoff, Reanna Rohrer
From the musical Small Town Story
Music and Lyrics by Brandon James Gwinn

“I Throw a Parade”..................................................................................................... Jazmin Daniel
Commissioned by NWU
Music and Lyrics by: Preston Max Allen
Piano Arrangement by Josh Freilich

“The Pill Song”........................................................................................................ Alex Rownd, Kyle Goeken, John Alden, Colin Swanson
From the musical I Don’t Want to Talk About It
Music and Lyrics by: Ben Caplan

“I Promise”........................................................................................................ Kristia Golightly, Raimy O. Washington
From the musical Metropolis
Music and Lyrics by Brandon Webster and AriDy Nox

“My Lifelong Love”............................................................................................... Natalie Crane
Music and Lyrics by: Georgia Stitt

“Days I Can”........................................................................................................ Colin Swanson
From the musical I Don’t Want to Talk About It
Music and Lyrics by: Ben Caplan
The involvement of the guest artists in this event was made possible by the Pace Woods Foundation. Nebraska Wesleyan University is proud to acknowledge this special gift.

The late F. Pace Woods II was an avid supporter of the arts whose career began in early television. For NBC Hollywood, he directed for The Dinah Shore Show, The Jimmy Durante Show, and The Bob Hope Show among other series. He returned to Lincoln in 1958 to work for the family realty business, became an integral part of its success, and enjoyed active roles in supporting the arts in our community. He was a regular donor to Nebraska Wesleyan University and numerous organizations. Under the leadership of family and friends, the Pace Woods Foundation exists to carry on his passion for the arts and education.

We would also like to give our sincere thanks to:

Jen Sandler and New York Theatre Barn
Rebecca Armstrong
Julie Wilshusen
Talea Bloch
Jay Chipman
Jana Holzmeier
Kathy Benischek
Kate Demoret

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DIRECTORS NOTE

When setting out to produce a musical in the middle of a global pandemic, the faculty of NWU theatre department grappled with how to safely produce a musical in a time where so much of what we do in theatre is now unsafe. Broadway is shuttered until at least June of 2021. Regional theatres across the country are moving seasons online, if they are lucky enough to be operating at all. Theatre artists across the country are out of work and questioning how to move forward. University theatres are grappling with these same problems in addition to the questions that all educators are wrestling with of how to adapt to our current situation and continue to offer our students enriching learning experiences.

Because of these limitations, producing a fully realized musical production was not an option this fall, and the most viable and safe option was producing either a song cycle or cabaret. But, as is often the case, with limitation comes the opportunity for creativity. The theatre faculty embraced and embarked on the idea of collaborating with up-and-coming artists writing in musical theatre to put together a night of new music, highlighting issues facing young people today and shining a light on voices that have long been marginalized in traditional musical theatre.

After reaching out to friends and colleagues to see if any of them would have interest in being a part of a new works cabaret in Lincoln, Nebraska, I was introduced to Jen Sandler, a producer at New York Theatre Barn. Jen graciously put me in contact with multiple composers and lyricists who are writing new and exciting work throughout this difficult time. These artists are all part of a movement to tackle the exclusive systems that have long been in place in theatre, and create a more equitable and representative musical theatre.

What started as a solution to the problem of how to produce a musical production in the time of COVID-19, evolved into an opportunity to highlight stories not often heard, performed by people who have too often not been seen. Throughout the process, and in large thanks to the Pace Woods Foundation, the students of Fresh Voices have had the opportunity to meet and work with the composers and lyricists, and several of the pieces highlighted tonight have been commissioned for our students specifically.

The artists whose work the actors of Fresh Voices are performing have been incredibly gracious. They have shared their time and their experiences with our students, discussing their paths, inspirations, their experiences within the theatre industry and where they hope to see it go. There have been last minute changes and additions, and the students have had the opportunity to experience working on brand new material, directly with the writers creating it.

As with all theatrical experiences, but in some ways even more so throughout this process, this has been a massive team effort, made possible only through the immense support of the entire theatre department, with support of the music department and university. As a visiting faculty member, I have been inspired by the creativity and determination of the department to continue to offer the students live theatrical experiences, and overwhelmed by the support and sense of community. Most of all, I have been moved, every single day, by the dedication and passion of the students involved in this production. They represent the future of musical theatre. Their perseverance, willingness to tackle personal and difficult issues, and their bravery to use their voices and art to speak out and affect change, give me great hope for the future.

- Anne McAlexander, Director
UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

A Christmas Carol
McDonald Theatre

NWU ONLY Performances: November 12-13 at 7:30 p.m.
PUBLIC Performances: November 14 at 7:30 p.m.
November 15 at 2 p.m.

*Limited seating for ALL performances due to campus and city-wide mandated Covid-19 safety precautions. For any questions or concerns, please email: theatre@nebrwesleyan.edu

THEATRE FACULTY AND STAFF

Department Chair, Jay Scott Chipman, Ph.D., S.D.C.
Manager of Theatre Operations, Julie Wilshusen, M.A.

Faculty
Ryan Kathman, M.F.A., AEA
Joan Korte, M.F.A.
Anne McAlexander, M.F.A., AEA

Adjunct Faculty
Talea C.M.S. Bloch, D.M.A.
Sasha Dobson, M.F.A.
Courtney Ring, B.P.A.
Carson Cerney, M.F.A.
Scott Shomaker, M.F.A.

Staff
Costume Shop Manager, Rebecca Armstrong, B.F.A.
Light and Sound Technician, Joshua Brauer, B.F.A.
Administrative Assistant, Kate Demoret, B.F.A.
Technical Director, Brendan Greene-Walsh, M.F.A.
Master Carpenter, Dylan Spilinek, B.F.A.

Emeriti Professors
Alice J. Jaswal, Ph.D.
Michael Reese, M.F.A.

MEET THE CAST AND CREW!
https://youtu.be/-KbukKG_VtE

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