WELCOME TO NAU THEATRE

Summer, 2017

Welcome New NAU Theatre Students!

The faculty, staff and I would like to welcome you to NAU Theatre. We hope that your summer is going well and that you are looking forward to the upcoming year. This letter will outline some of the many events and activities we have planned as well as our expectations for you as you enter this phase of your education at NAU.

NAU Theatre’s 2017-2018 Season Past and Present invites you to take a trip where your past meets the present. George Bernard Shaw shared, "We learn from history that we learn nothing from history." This season we look at four plays that reveal the common thread that the past is staring us down, and we are poised to repeat it. Theatre is said to transport, transform and to tickle our fancy and we hope, this season of stories will take you on a road trip of our past while keeping an eye on our present, because as journalist and historian Leslie Chang says, “The past has been there all along, reminding us: This time--maybe, hopefully, against all odds, we will get it right.” Perhaps the stories we have chosen to tell this season will help our future selves to “get it right.”

We are excited that you will be joining us on our two state-of-the-art stages and in our classrooms for challenging theatrical experiences alluring you to grow and flourish as a student of Theatre. I would like to share our mission with you so you can better understand the focus of the program. NAU Theatre engages tomorrow’s theatre ARTISTS and professionals in a deep, and broad understanding of theatre by focusing on experiential, and collaborative undergraduate learning. We cultivate our student's artistic integrity and work-ethic through a liberal arts foundation. Perhaps our vision makes it clearer: NAU Theatre envisions a nationally recognized undergraduate program in which our students excel as well-rounded theatre practitioners. We are committed to the students, the university, and the community through the transformative power of Theatre.
Over the coming academic year, remember our tag line, “We learn theatre by doing theatre” as we ask you to participate fully in your education. To that end, the following list outlines the season, audition dates for the productions, how to secure a crew position, and other details that will help you to get involved immediately. We are very excited to meet you and hope this list is helpful.

THE SEASON

INTIMATE APPAREL by Lynn Nottage
Directed by Bob Yowell
October 13, 14, 15, 19, 20 and 21, 2017 at 7:30
October 15 and 22, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.
THE CLIFFORD E. WHITE THEATER

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and Tony nominated playwright, Lynn Nottage tells the story of Esther, an unmarried African-American, financially independent seamstress who fashions fine lingerie in her boarding house bedroom. Financially secure, yet longing for a husband, Esther finds love with a Hasidic shopkeeper. Sadly, the impossibility of the match drives her to make an unacceptable match with George, a Caribbean immigrant whose only desire is to steal her wealth and sow his oats. Intimate Apparel is a play about people striving for better lives; where privilege and ambition are mixed with society’s realities of race and class. Nottage’s story is as eerily profound in 2017 as it was eleven years ago when it took Broadway by storm.

ROUTE 66: Celebrating America’s Mainstreet
Written and directed by Mac Groves
November 17, 18, 30 and December 1 and 2, 2017 at 7:30p.m.
November 19 and December 3, 2017 at 2:00p.m.
THE STUDIO THEATER

Playwright and director Mac Groves wrote these words about the road he has treasured since childhood, “I fell in love with the highway in 1965 on my first trip west with my family...There were huge expanses of the old highway still present out west, and that trip became a defining moment of my life.” Meandering through our country, Route 66 was larger than life, and provided the play, which Groves originally produced in 2001 and revived in 2003, plenty of stories to honor our Mother Road and her spirit “as broad as the country it traversed.” Told in song and story, Groves once again revives the tale, but this time he captures more of America’s
historic highways. At a time when Route 66 and her sister highways face the very real prospect of being dropped from the National Park Service preservation program, this play becomes even more critical in saving the voices of our past.

**KING JOHN**

*By William Shakespeare*

*Directed by Christina Gutierrez Dennehy*

February 23, 24 March 1, 2 and 3, 2018 at 7:30p.m.

February 25 and March 4, 2018 at 2:00p.m.

**THE STUDIO THEATER**

William Shakespeare’s *King John* tells the story of one of England’s least popular kings (whom audiences may remember as Prince John from the Robin Hood stories), and his attempts to hold on to his crown in the face of widespread corruption and public unrest. A study in the disastrous effects of ineffective leadership, *King John* combines sword fighting, powerful female characters, and moments of both poignant tragedy and dark humor. Although it tells the story of a medieval king, *King John* provides a mirror to our own world, asking questions about who deserves power, and who has the ability to hold on to it.

**TARTUFFE**

*Adapted from Moliere’s play by Kathleen M. McGeever and Kristen LePine directed by Kathleen M. McGeever*

April 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 2018 AT 7:30P.M.

April 22 and 29, 2018 at 2:00p.m.

**THE CLIFFORD E. WHITE THEATER**

Tricky Tartuffe slithers his way into Orgon’s household and schemes to marry his daughter, seduce his wife, and run off with the family’s fortune. Con men don’t come any more bald-faced than slimy Tartuffe. He’ll wheedle his way into every inch of your being and before you know it, all you hold dear has vanished and you willingly gave him the key. This modern adaptation of *Molière’s* classic play, set in modern day Indiana, spins piety, hypocrisy and deceit into a hilarious and biting satire; honoring one of the world’s great plays by viewing the universal dark side of humanity through the lens of today.

**AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:** All theatre students interested in performance, and all freshmen and recent transfers, are required to audition for the four regular mainstage productions.
So, what do you need to prepare for the auditions?

- Read the plays and prepare for the audition thoroughly, which means practice!
- What we find important in an audition is that the student actor is prepared and memorized. We like to see that you cared enough to prepare in advance.
- We are also looking for actors that are willing to take a risk or make specific choices, and that you are willing to experiment with various directions/options--whether "right or wrong" for the character.
- Be open, creative and flexible.
- You might also meet with the faculty director to see what they might be looking for in the role. Dress for the audition and arrive early!
- As a new student, it is OK to perform a monologue that you already know, or have performed for a prior audition. You will quickly gain auditioning skills once you arrive on campus and it is best to be prepared.

For the specific requirements please read on . . . It is always good to try and find material that differs from your previous auditions.

**REMEMBER, monologues should NOT exceed 1 minute each.**

**Fall auditions:** Open Auditions: August 29 and 30. Callbacks are scheduled for August 31st. Please sign up for a slot on the Department Callboard immediately on the first day of classes. You will be auditioning for the following mainstage productions: *Intimate Apparel*, and *Route 66*. Please prepare the following material: Two (2) contemporary monologues. Monologues should be contrasting and not exceed 1-minute in length. For Route 66, you may be asked to prepare a song and if you play an instrument, to play. Check back with my office in early August for clarification on the music requirement. You may email me directly at Kathleen.McGeever@nau.edu

**Spring auditions will take place in December during reading week:**
Open Auditions for *King John* and *Tartuffe* will take place December 4 and 5, and callbacks are scheduled for December 6th. If cast in *King John*, you will be expected to begin rehearsals the week prior to classes beginning for the spring semester. The audition sign-up sheet will be posted on the Callboard in November following the second fall production. Prepare two (2) monologues, on comedic contemporary, and the other from Shakespeare showing you understand the language. Monologues should not exceed 1-minute in length.
OTHER OPPORTUNITIES
In addition to the faculty directed, mainstage productions there are other opportunities for you to perform, work behind the scenes, and to make the most of your education. Here are a few of the opportunities that await you:

CAPSTONE PERFORMANCES OR PROJECTS
NAU Theatre prides itself on giving each student within their major a way to solidify and test their knowledge and craftsmanship before entering the “real” world; this is known as the STUDENT SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT. Every graduating senior MUST complete a project within their area of interest or emphasis. Occasionally, a student director achieves the opportunity (after considerable hard work) to direct a project. There are also new plays, or other projects that create performance or “back stage” opportunities. The Capstone Projects are cast or positions filled after the mainstage season is staffed and cast. Although these projects are not a part of the mainstage, they are equally exciting projects and a great way for new students to be seen. Please check the CALLBOARD regularly to find other opportunities.

In addition, we have a wide variety of performance opportunities. Here is a list of other opportunities that you can get involved in:

- **TH 214 Acting Intensive** is a hands-on acting course designed to give the student experience in working with an acting coach, expanding their skill set, and culminates in performing up to three one-acts for the Fall One Act Festival, December 7-9, 2017. There are two casting periods for the course – during the Emphasis auditions each spring, and during the fall open auditions for the mainstage. Students must keep their schedules open for a Tuesday/Thursday course that meets from 11:10-12:25 if they wish to be cast in the course, and students cast on the mainstage are eligible for the course and the One Act Festival.

- **The NAU Theatre 24 Hour Plays** (sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega the Honorary Dramatic Society) is another opportunity. In a process that normally takes months; writers, directors, stage managers and many actors write and produce individual short plays. They collaborate with staging and rehearsal before opening the doors to a live audience exactly 24 hours after the writers begin drafting their scripts. The only prep allowed prior to the weekend’s festivities is the selection of participants. This event takes place between the mainstage productions during the fall semester. Please check the Callboard for details.
• Directing I Scene performances are scheduled at the end of each semester. The performances are the Directing I students’ final projects. Students will present 8 to 10 minute scenes that are fully memorized and directed. Each section of Directing I casts their work differently, so stay tuned for information on the Callboard. Directing I scenes are an excellent opportunity for freshmen and transfer students to be seen by the faculty and the students.

• Other projects such as New Works Festival, Miscast event, NAUghty Bits and Creative Media and Film projects will be posted on the CALLBOARD. Remember **ALWAYS CHECK THE CALLBOARD** (see Department Nerve Center for details.)

**CREW ANYONE?**
For those of you who are interested in working on the shows either as a crew member or in the shop, you will have the opportunity through your TH 123: Stagecraft, TH 122: Lighting and Sound or TH 124: Costume Construction courses and the TH 113: Production Practicum applied courses to fulfill lab hours in one of the shops and backstage. During that first week of classes you will attend a **mandatory Majors/Minor Meeting** (Tuesday, August 29 at 5:30p.m. until 7:00p.m.) and you will have the opportunity to hear about the labs (113, 213,313, 413.) I also recommend that you discuss it with the instructor of your Theatre technology course (TH 122,123, 124.) You will need to complete the appropriate paperwork for the lab that meets in conjunction with your course (TH 122, 123 or 124.) The paperwork is attached to the course syllabus. When you are scheduled for a TH 113, 213, 313 or 413 you will meet with the appropriate faculty member. For example, if you are enrolled in either section of TH 124: Costume Construction then you will work with Ms. Nancy Parr, if you are in TH 122: Lighting/Sound then you will work with Mr. Ben Alexander, and if you are in TH 123: Stagecraft (either section) you will work with Mr. Mark De Lancey. If you have not added the TH 113 class, please contact our office and we will make sure that you are enrolled in the correct section.

If you are not enrolled in a theatre technology course (TH 122, 123, 124) we encourage students to gain experience by volunteering for a crew or for work in the shop even if they are not in a TH 113 lab class. You will have the opportunity to meet the designers and technical staff (Nancy Parr, Kate Ellis, Ben Alexander, Naoko Skala, and Mark De Lancey) either at the Majors/Minors Meeting or when classes begin. Remember, our doors are open. Pop in and say hello!
THE DEPARTMENT NERVE CENTER
In the Theatre hallway (located in The Performing and Fine Arts building #37) you will find the most important communication center for your four years at NAU. This is where the Callboard is located. The Callboard (located adjacent to the costume shop) is the control center for the department. You will find audition notices, daily schedules for rehearsals and production meetings, work calls, social events, and other pertinent information. Additionally, you will find a bulletin board directly across from the Theatre offices and next to Room 125 where outside auditions, school information, graduate programs, and job announcements are posted. Both the Callboard and the department board should be checked at least once-a-day to stay informed. Make it a habit by adding it to your routine as you pass by for a class that way you won’t have to remember each day.

Other news sources include:
The Department Website maintains a Callboard with important information, a Department Facebook page, and a website (the NAU Department of Theatre) where pertinent information is posted regularly. Please visit these virtual domains in addition to the physical Callboard.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS
• FALL MAJORS/MINORS MEETING – Tuesday, August 29, 2017 at 5:30p.m., in the Clifford E. White Theatre. **THIS MEETING IS MANDITORY! IT IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL FRESHMEN AND NEW TRANSER THEATRE STUDENTS, as well as RETURNING STUDENTS.** PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
• SPRING MAJORS/MINORS MEETING– Thursday, January 18, 2018, 5:30p.m. The Clifford E. White Theatre. **THIS MEETING IS MANDITORY! IT IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL FRESHMEN AND NEW TRANSER THEATRE STUDENTS, as well as RETURNING STUDENTS.** PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
• SOPHOMORE AND TRANSFER STUDENT REVIEWS, January 30-31, 2018. Sign-up times will be posted on the Callboard at the end of the fall semester. Interviews are scheduled for room 151 – check the information sheet posted in December for the details. **THIS IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL SOPHOMORE AND TRANSFER THEATRE MAJORS who have been a NAU theatre student for at least one full semester.** PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
• NAU Drama Day, Saturday, April 28, 2018. Drama Day is an important recruitment event for NAU Theatre where high schools attend a day-long event filled with a performance of Tartuffe, tours, workshops, competitions and awards.

• SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS/INTERVIEWS take place throughout the year for incoming freshmen. Other students who are interested in a scholarship may audition or interview on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 1:00p.m. in the Studio Theater. All paperwork will be due March 1, 2018. Please check the website and the Callboard for details.

• PERFORMANCE EMPHASIS AUDITIONS, Friday, March 2, 2018, 3:30p.m. in the Studio Theatre.

• DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY EMPHASIS INTERVIEWS, Friday, March 2, 2018 3:30p.m. in the Design Lab, Room 115.

• DEPARTMENT PHOTOGRAPH immediately prior to strike of Tartuffe on April 29, 2018 on the CEW stage.

VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

You will be expected to review the NAU Theatre Student Handbook (http://www.cal.nau.edu/theatre/students.asp) prior to the fall Majors/Minors Meeting. There is a lot of very important information on the link and you will wish to visit it regularly for answers to your questions.

NAU THEATRE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student Organizations are a great way to:

• Gain additional experience leading to leadership roles in the department
• Build your resume
• Meet new friends and colleagues
• Apply your coursework to real-life projects
• Hone your skills in a safe environment
• Have fun
• Make a difference in the department
• Find your passion
Alpha Psi Omega (APO)- Alpha Psi Omega is the National Theatre Honor Society that works towards establishing quality dramatic production, and professionalism in theatre students and universities. The Beta Nu cast was formed at NAU over thirty years ago, and it has flourished becoming a respected organization within the Department. Each year, APO presents production opportunities for students, workshops and seminars to enhance coursework and lab experiences, service projects for the department, and much, much more. Students earn points towards their application by becoming involved in Departmental projects. Applications are taken each semester.

Arizona Playmakers (AZP) and NAUGHTY Bits- Arizona Playmakers, originally called Kilani Nilani, was founded in 1923, and is the oldest club on campus. Arizona Playmakers (or AZP for short) has been dedicated to creating an environment in which students can explore opportunities in theatre. Each year, AZP also sponsors a variety of events like a night of scenes, the 10-minute play festival, the picnic auction, and more. AZP welcomes all students with an interest in theatre. There are no requirements to be a member. AZP is also the proud sponsor of NAUGHTY Bits, Flagstaff’s premier improv comedy troupe. All students are welcome to join in and play. NAUGHTY Bits performs across Arizona for dorms, schools, conventions, and parties.

United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) - NAU USITT (United States Institute for Theatre Technology) supports students looking to explore the field of design and technology. USITT provides members with informative seminars, networking, and job opportunities. NAU USITT is under Desert State – the regional chapter – and under the National Organization. Every year USITT members attend seminars that Desert State offers, as well as the national conference. The student chapter provides financial support for students who wish to attend the National Conference.

The Lazzi Posse – NAU Theatre’s Commedia dell’ Arte Troupe is an audition only company of performers who bring the ancient traditions of Commedia to life. The Lazzi Posse, under the direction of me, performs around campus and the community. Apprentices are added to work with the company each year. Look for auditions in both the spring and the fall.
ONCE AGAIN, WELCOME!
The Faculty and Staff are very excited to meet you. Please remember that even if you are being advised in Gateway you should stop by and talk to the Theatre faculty about your course of study and department happenings. We would like to get to know you better! The study of Theatre is accumulative; meaning that you begin the study immediately so that you advance and develop as a craftsperson and artist. You will take your liberal studies core, minor courses, as well as major coursework together throughout your degree studies at NAU.

I hope you are just as excited as we are about the coming year. We look forward to getting to know each of you. Have a safe summer and we will see you soon!

Kathleen M. McGeever, Chair
Professor of Theatre, Performance
NAU Department of Theatre