



by Maria Irene Fornes

Felu &
Her Friends

directed by
Christina Gutierrez-Dennehy

A livestreamed virtual performance

March 2-6 at 7:30pm

A note from the director...

By now, it is a cliché to comment that the COVID-19 pandemic has forced major changes in our lives, our work, and our art. NAU's production of *Fefu and Her Friends* was of course not immune to these changes. As I originally envisioned the production, it would have retained its original 1930s setting, and, as playwright María Irene Fornés suggests, audience members would have traveled around the Clifford E. White theater in the play's second half, encountering each of the four scenes that make up that part of the play in small groups. Actors would have performed these four scenes four times each, allowing each group of spectators to view them, and creating four distinct paths through the show. Fornés wrote the play in this manner to allow audiences unique and intimate access to the lives of the eight women in the play.

With the onset of the pandemic, however, came a nation-wide transition to online, streaming theatre. As I have discovered over the rehearsal process, this transition has forced a very different audience experience of *Fefu*, but one which I have come to believe retains Fornés' original vision. We have transplanted the setting of the play from 1930 to 2021, and moved the action of the play from Fefu's enormous hunting lodge to a Zoom meeting which the characters attend from their own homes. Rather than moving between rooms in Fefu's home, audiences will be guided into a series of virtual "breakout rooms," in which they will encounter Fornés' characters having the same discussions about love, fear, mental health, identity, and gender as they would have in an in-person production. What results from these changes is an intimate look at the way in which women speak to each other when they are alone together. Strikingly, the conversations they have—and the anxieties they voice—resonate just as loudly in 2021 as they did in 1930 (or in the 1970s, when Fornés wrote the play). Perhaps even more strikingly, audiences may recognize in Fornés' characters the same sense of isolation, and the same desperate desire for connection that we have all felt during the 2020/2021 COVID-19 quarantine. Like us, Fornés' women are seeking to bridge the divides between them, reaching out across the wires for comfort, laughter, and friendship.

—Christina Gutierrez-Dennehy, Director

Fefu and her Friends

By Maria Irene Fornes

Cast

*APO +USITT ^CAPSTONE

Fefu

Carly Durrer*

Julia

Karly Moyers

Emma

Emma Gasior

Cindy

Lexxii Ramirez^

Christina

Cassie Freedman

Paula

Kelsey Brown*

Cecilia

Mikayla Wilkerson

Sue

Maia Engelthaler

Creative Team

Director

Christina

Gutierrez-Dennehy

Costume Design

Jennifer Peterson

Assistant Costume Design

Brittany Langer*

Scenic Design

Mark Delancey

Audio and Streaming

Ben Alexander

Coordinator

Programmer

Bella Affronti^

Voice and Speech

Rebecca Whitehurst

Production Team



Technical Director

Mark Delancey

Stage Manager

Gabby Lux*+

Assistant Stage Managers

Shea Turner+

Tori Martinson

Costume Shop Manager

Nancy Parr

Department Chair and EP

Kathleen M. McGeever

EP Interns

Paige Adams and

Kathryn Frketich

Poster Design

Visual Design Lab

Special Thanks

Wyatt Clark

Chris Boyer, Dean of CAL

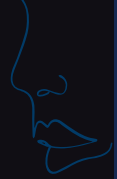
Kareli Vanessa Cota, CTO

NAU students, staff and faculty

The Department of Theatre would also like to recognize Bill and Jana Harper for their generous Endowment for production. Please consider giving to this important fund:

The Harper Family Endowment

Costume Crew



Crew Head: Brittany Langer*

Crew: Zoe Crowe, Sydnee Messerschmidt and Natasha Westrope

House Management

House Manager: Grace Kennedy and James Wallis*

Events Promotions

Events Promotion Head: Kelsey Brown*

Team Members : Ian Burnett*, Chaiah Durst*, Mary Ryan*,
Paige Adams and Kathryn Frketich

Donations and Resources

Started by NAU Theatre Alums, Bill and Jana Harper in 2018, The Harper Family Endowment for Production provides sustainable support for NAU Theatre Productions.

Our productions are the hands-on labs for Theatre students and provide the opportunity for our students to learn theatre by doing theatre. During the COVID 19 Pandemic, it has become more important than ever to rely on external funding sources and to rebuild audiences. We cannot sustain on ticket sales alone - please consider giving to this fund today!

<https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1898/giving19/form.aspx?sid=1898&gid=2&pgid=418&bledit=1&dids=2345>

The Process



Photo by: Paige Adams

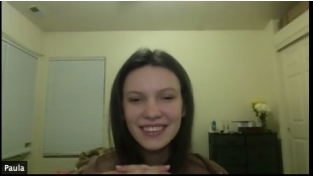
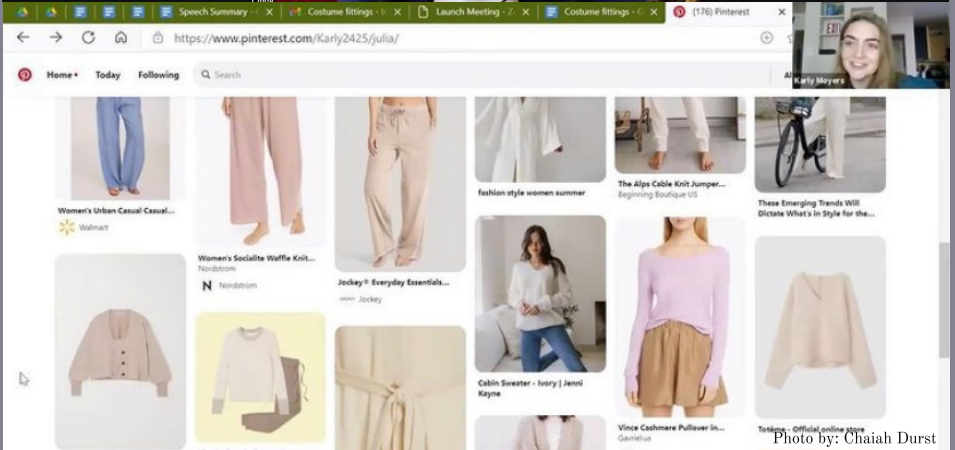


Photo by: Lexxii Ramirez

UP NEXT.....

SHE KILLS MONSTERS

BY QUI NGUYEN

An imaginary world of nasty ogres, homicidal fairies, and pop culture in a heart-pounding homage to the warrior within.

April 8-11, 2021

SOCIAL PLUG



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