



## Department of Theatre

Summer, 2020

Welcome New & Returning NAU Theatre Students!

The faculty, staff and I are very excited to see you very soon. We know it is earlier than you had planned, but hopefully that will help us to have a smooth semester. We are also very excited about meeting all the new faces and getting to know you.

This letter outlines important information for the semester ahead. There is new information for all, including returning students as we re-open campus as well as information that is directed toward our incoming students. I have divided the letter into INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS and INFORMATION FOR ALL to help you navigate the letter. Please read the letter in detail and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

### INFORMATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

We are excited that you will be joining us for challenging and rewarding theatrical experiences, where we hope you will 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 NAU Theatre 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” (#DoingTheatre)** as we ask you to participate fully in your education. Later in this document, under INFORMATION FOR ALL you will find information regarding our season, audition dates

for the productions and other details that will help you to get involved immediately.

The following is information known to returning students, but will be good for you to know as you begin your NAU Theatre journey:

### **Crewing Shows:**

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 which fulfill lab hours in one of the shops and backstage. If you are enrolled in technical courses, you will learn all about the labs and crewing, as well as working in the shops during your regular class meeting. For the TH 113 lab course, the meeting time noted in your schedule is all day, that is because you will be working with your instructor to create a schedule of times to attend as well as a production to crew. All this will be made clear by your instructor of either TH 122, 123, or 124.

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, Jennifer Peterson, Ben Alexander, and Mark De Lancey) either at the Majors/Minors Meeting or when classes begin. Remember, our *virtual doors* (email and virtual meetings) are open and once we are through this pandemic, our actual doors will be open. In the meantime, please reach out via email to set up meetings, even if just to say hello!

### **Mandatory Majors/Minor Meeting**

During the first few days of the fall semester, you must attend a mandatory Majors/Minor Meeting (Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 5:30p.m. until 6:30 p.m.) where you will have the opportunity to hear about the department and meet faculty and students. Here is the login information:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://nau.zoom.us/j/99164213633>  
Meeting ID: 991 6421 3633  
Password: 273302

The labs (TH 113, 213,313, 413) mentioned under Crewing Shows (above) will be discussed along with many important topics.

If you cannot attend the synchronous meeting, please reach out to Sarah Wishnewskey ([sarah.wishnewskey@nau.edu](mailto:sarah.wishnewskey@nau.edu)) and she will be sure to provide a link to the meeting for you to watch a recorded version.

### **Where Do I Find Information for the Department?**

The NAU Department of Theatre is a busy department on campus and students are very much involved in the inner workings of the unit. It can be challenging to stay on top of everything and to know what is going on. Luckily, you will have many options for finding information.

### **The Department Call Board is your first stop...**

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. Go to that board at least 2 times a day!

### **Other Sources of 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 will not have to remember each day.

The Department Facebook page provides important reminders and information posted regularly. We also have a department Twitter, Instagram and check out the Pinterest boards we use for production research. Regular announcements in classes is another way to find out what is going on, but when all else fails, check the Callboard!

## **INFORMATION FOR ALL**

NAU Theatre's 2019-2020 MAINSTAGE Season

Please note: NAU Theatre is doing its best to bring these productions to The Clifford E. White Theater, live. However, as the pandemic is unpredictable, we have a variety of contingency plans and productions will continue in an adaptive format. Our foremost concern is for all students, faculty, staff, and patrons to safely work in/and attend, theatre.

### **EAST OF THE SUN, WEST OF THE MOON**

Adapted from the Norwegian folktale by award winning playwright, Tina Howe

Directed by Kathleen M. McGeever

The Clifford E. White Theater, October 1 – 4, 2020

An enchanting tale of young Tove whose family thrusts her into the bitter Norwegian winter with a mysterious Polar Bear.

**A magical tale of love and inner strength where spells and darkness can be conquered. A play with music!**

### **CLUE**

By Jonathan Lynn

Directed by Nathanael Johnson

The Clifford E. White Theater, November 5-8, 2020

Join the Butler, Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. green, Mrs. Peacock and Colonel Mustard as they race to find the killer while the body count stacks up.

**Clue the madcap comedy whodunit will keep you on your toes!**

### **SHE KILLS MONSTERS**

By Qui Nguyen

Directed by Rebecca Whitehurst

The Clifford E. White Theater, April 8-11, 2021 and possibly Drama Days. A comic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games. Agnes stumbles upon her deceased sister's Dungeons and Dragons notebook and is catapulted into a journey of discovery and action-packed adventure. An imaginary world of nasty ogres, homicidal fairies, and pop culture, *She Kills Monsters* is a heart-pounding homage to the warrior within.

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

### **FEFU AND HER FRIENDS or Another script (still working on the Virtual Rights)**

By Maria Irene Fornes

Directed by Christina Gutierrez-Dennehy

A Virtual performance during the Spring Semester, 2021

FEFU: Experience the story of *Fefu and Her Friends* as they gather in her New England country home to rehearse for a charity event, a seemingly casual day in the life of eight women, yet *Fefu* will challenge our preconceptions about life and theatre through bold characters, exquisite storytelling and unconventional theatricality.

***Fefu* challenges our preconceptions about life and theatre through unconventional theatricality.**

**Stay Tuned.**

**Do not Miss Our:**

- One Act Festival – coordinated by Nathanael Johnson and Rebecca Whitehurst – a weekend of student directed and acted one-acts. TBD, November 12-14, 2020. Free and open to the public, suggested donation - \$5.00 at the door
- NAU Theatre Expo - Theatre students present their work in design, technology, performance, and research in a juried process. This is an opportunity to showcase your undergraduate research. The venue and format will be announced later in the year, but it will take place April 14-15, 2021. Free and open to the public, suggested donation - \$5.00 at the door
- The GREAT SURVIVAL DEBATE – A meeting of the minds from across campus debating the merits of their specific discipline in rebuilding the world after a disaster. Place (TBD) March 26, 2021, 5:30—7:30pm

**AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:** All students interested in performance, and all freshmen and recent transfers, are required to audition for our 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 one that you have performed for a prior audition. You will quickly gain auditioning skills once you arrive on campus and it is best to be prepared.
- Returning students should recognize the best practices in auditioning and follow through with those practices.
- Make sure you understand how to use ZOOM for your audition submission.

For the specific requirements please read more. **REMEMBER, monologues should NOT exceed 1 minute each.**

**Fall auditions:** You will be auditioning for the following mainstage productions: *EAST OF THE SUN WEST OF THE MOON* and *CLUE*. Open Auditions will be online submissions: August 12 through 16<sup>th</sup> by 5:00p.m.. Callbacks are scheduled for August 18 for *EAST OF THE SUN WEST OF THE MOON* and August 19 for *CLUE*. Please prepare the following material for the OPEN AUDITION/ONLINE SUBMISSION: Two (2) contemporary contrasting monologues- one comedy and one drama. Monologues should not exceed 1-minute in length for a total of a 2-minutes. You must also prepare 16 bars of a song of your choice.

**Spring auditions will take place during the first week of classes for the semester:** Open Auditions for *SHE KILLS MONSTERS* and FEFU or other Virtual project will take place January 19-20, and callbacks are scheduled for January 21-22. The audition sign-up sheet will be posted on the Callboard in early November. Please prepare the following material: Two (2) contemporary contrasting monologues. Monologues should not exceed 1-minute in length for a total of a 2-minute audition.

### **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:

- The ONE ACT FESTIVAL comes from designated courses. You will need to be enrolled in the courses to perform. If you have

technical skills, you should speak to the Design/Technical faculty about how to get involved with the projects.

- NAU Theatre Expo - Theatre students present their work in design, technology, performance, and research in a juried process. This is an opportunity to showcase your undergraduate research. The venue and format will be announced later in the year, but it will take place April 14-15, 2021.
- 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 “backstage” opportunities. The Capstone Projects are cast, or positions are 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.
- 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 two one-acts for the Fall One Act Festival. 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 class projects, 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.)

### **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 will not have to remember each day.

Other news sources include:

The Department Facebook page provides important reminders and information posted regularly. We also have a department Twitter, Instagram and check out the Pinterest boards we use for production research. Regular announcements in classes is another way to find out what is going on, but when all else fails, check the Callboard!

### **IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS**

- **Mandatory Majors/Minor Meeting**

During the first few days of the fall semester, you must attend a mandatory Remote Majors/Minor Meeting on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 5:30p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Here is the login information:

- Join Zoom Meeting
  - <https://nau.zoom.us/j/99164213633>
  - Meeting ID: 991 6421 3633
  - Password: 273302



- If you cannot attend the synchronous meeting, please reach out to Sarah Wishnewsy and she will be sure to provide a link to the meeting for you to watch a recorded version.
- SPRING MAJORS/MINORS MEETING– TBD for venue, Thursday, January 14, 2021, 5:30p.m. As of this date, this meeting will be in person. If it is switched to on-line, we will let you know prior to leaving for the semester break in November. **THIS MEETING IS MANDATORY! IT IS REQUIRED ATTENDANCE BY ALL FRESHMEN AND NEW TRANSFER THEATRE STUDENTS, as well as RETURNING STUDENTS.** PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!
- SOPHOMORE AND TRANSFER STUDENT REVIEWS, January 27-28, 2021. Sign-up times will be posted on the Callboard at the end of the fall semester. Interviews are scheduled for room 151 or they may be on-line if need be – check the information sheet posted in November 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 IS PLANNED FOR 2021, BUT MAY NEED TO BE ADJUSTED. AT THIS TIME, WE PLAN TO HOLD 2 EVENTS ON CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS. The dates are Saturday, April 17 and 24, 2021 – we are hoping to move forward with several days to spread out attendance and enable Social Distancing. However, this is not in “stone” yet, due to the changing issues surrounding COVID. Drama Day is an important recruitment event for NAU Theatre where high schools attend a day-long event filled with performances of *SHE KILLS MONSTERS*, 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 6TH, 2021 at 1:00p.m. in the Clifford E. White Theatre and online through ACCEPTd. All paperwork will be due March 1, 2021. Please check the website and the Callboard for details.
- PERFORMANCE EMPHASIS AUDITIONS, Friday, March 5, 2021, 2:00p.m. in the Studio Theatre or Virtually through ZOOM if necessary.
- DESIGN/TECHNOLOGY EMPHASIS INTERVIEWS, Friday, March 5, 2021 3:00p.m. in the Design Lab, Room 115.
- DEPARTMENT PHOTOGRAPH immediately prior to the final public performance of *SHE KILLS MONSTERS* on April 11, 2021 in the Studio Theater.

### **COVID RELATED INFORMATION:**

Masks are required in all work in the department of theatre, especially given the kind of work we do in the theatre. If you have an underlying health condition, please make an appointment with Disability resources for accommodation.

Please follow the traffic control processes posted in the building.

At all times, Social Distancing is required keeping 6 feet distance from you and the other person.

Please wash your hands regularly and note there are many hand-sanitizing stations throughout the building.

Our offices are much too small to facilitate Social Distancing. All advising and all or most meetings will take place remotely to avoid contact when not necessary and lessen all our exposure to potential virus. Please be sure to note that faculty will still maintain office hours, they will just be held remotely. All Department meetings will also be remote and production meetings will be held remotely as well.

NOTE: The Performing and Fine Arts building#37/37A and home to Theatre, Art and Music), will have some new rules regarding navigating through the halls, stairway, elevators and classrooms, social distancing, etc., so please be aware of signage alerting you to the correct way to get to and from your classes.

We as a department are committed to providing you the student with a semester of learning that is in accordance to the rules and guidelines set forth by the CDC and the University. We have plans for making performing, working backstage and for the audience as safe as possible. We need your efforts to ensure that all policies and protocol are followed carefully.

Please visit the following NAU Jacks are Back website for more information: <https://nau.edu/jacks-are-back/>

### **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:**

You will be expected to review the NAU Theatre Student Handbook (<http://www.cal.nau.edu/theatre/students.asp>) as soon as you can – keeping in mind that we will be making edits as soon as the website is up

and running. The department information (including the handbook) will be updated throughout the fall semester. 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 member attend seminar 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.

Be sure to visit the recorded messages from your Student Organization Leadership. They will be made available during the Fall, on-line Virtual Majors/Minors Meeting and posted to the Department YouTube address.

**ONCE AGAIN, YOU ARE VERY WELCOME!**

The Faculty and Staff are very excited for the coming year! Freshmen, please remember that even if you are being advised in Gateway, we invite 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 to help students advance and develop as artists and crafts people. You will take your liberal studies, minor courses, as well as major coursework together throughout your degree studies at NAU.

Returning students, be sure to email us to say hi after your short summer break, or wave from a socially distanced position. If you have been shy about getting to know the faculty and staff, I invite you to change that for the coming year.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better – even if we meet remotely, and I hope you are just as excited as we are about the coming year. Have a safe summer and we will see you soon!

Slainte' (cheers),



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