

# A RITE OF SPRING:

*in sound and movement*

CHOREOGRAPHED BY REBECCA WHITEHURST AND ENSEMBLE

APR 27TH  
28TH  
29TH  
7:30PM

APR 30TH  
2:00PM

Poster design by Ethan Feilbach – VisualDESIGNLab

Clifford E. White Theater

**NAU** NORTHERN  
ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY

Department of Theatre

THREE WAYS TO ORDER TICKETS:

ONLINE: [nau.edu/cto](http://nau.edu/cto)

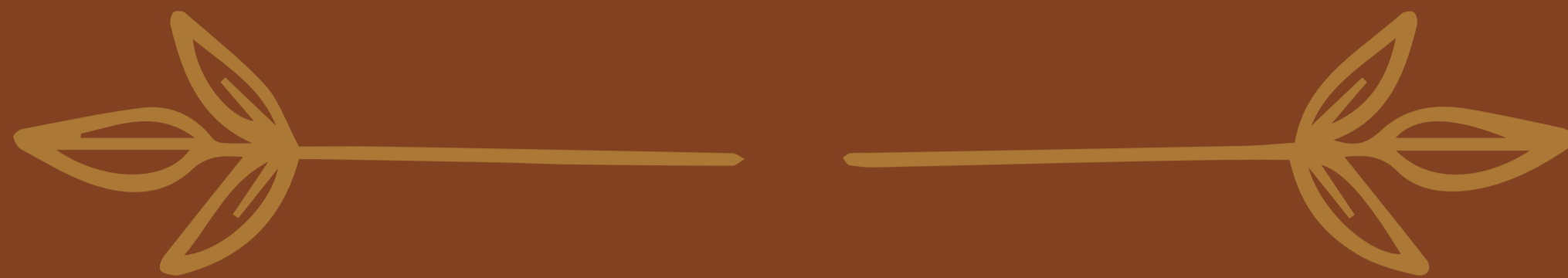
PHONE: 928-523-5661

IN PERSON: Ticket office at the University Union



[nau.edu/cal/theatre/events](http://nau.edu/cal/theatre/events)

# Director's Note



"YOUR BODY BELONGS TO THE EARTH."  
—THÍCH NHẤT HẠNH

BARE FEET IN EARTH, HANDS OUTSTRETCHED FOR RAIN...A COMMUNITY PULSATING TOWARD THEIR MOST PROFOUND SACRIFICE—FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF ALL LIFE, FOR WINTER TO TURN TO SPRING. THIS PIECE OF PHYSICAL THEATRE TO PETER STOPSCHINSKI'S SCORE THE "MASSACRE OF SPRING" REIMAGINES THE ORIGINAL *LE SACRE DU PRINTEMPS*, COMPOSED BY IGOR STRAVINSKY AND CHOREOGRAPHED BY VASLAV NIJINSKY. NAU'S DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE BRINGS YOU A SENSORIAL EXPLORATION OF BODIES, ENVIRONMENT, RITUAL, AND SACRIFICE—A CELEBRATORY ODE TO LIFE.

IN 2010, I EXPERIENCED A MOST AMAZING PERFORMANCE BY THE FOURTH YEAR ACTING STUDENTS OF THE MOSCOW ART THEATRE SCHOOL (MXAT). "STRAVINSKY GAMES." WAS CHOREOGRAPHED BY MXAT'S HEAD OF MOVEMENT ALLA SIGALOVA, HONORED ARTIST OF RUSSIA. I HAD NEVER SEEN AN ENSEMBLE OF ACTORS (OR DANCERS) SO FULLY ALIVE, SO FULLY 'ON ACTION' IN SERVICE TO THE STORY. EVERY FIBER OF THEIR BEING WAS ON FIRE, AWAKENING THE PRIMAL AND PRICKLING THE SKIN OF EVERYONE IN THE AUDITORIUM. WHAT AN EDUCATION FOR THE ACTOR!, I THOUGHT.

WITNESSING SIGALOVA'S "STRAVINSKY. GAMES." WAS ALL THE MORE POWERFUL FOR ME SINCE MY FAVORITE PIECE OF THEATRE WAS (AND STILL IS) PINA BAUSCH'S *FRÜHLINGSOPFER*, CHOREOGRAPHED IN 1975. AND SO I ASKED SIGLAOVA TO BE MY MENTOR; AND, THE FOLLOWING YEAR I LIVED ABROAD AND STUDIED HER METHODS OF CREATING MOVEMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE ACTOR. DURING THIS TIME I LEARNED THAT SIGALOVA'S INSPIRATION CAME FROM HER MENTOR—THE ONE AND ONLY PINA BAUSCH.

MANY YEARS LATER I MET A BRILLIANT COMPOSER BY THE NAME OF PETER STOPSCHINSKI, WHO HAD CREATED HIS OWN VERSION OF *THE RITE OF SPRING*. LISTENING TO HIS THRILLING, WHIMSICAL, AND AT TIMES TERRIFYING SCORE, I FELT COMPELLED TO BRING HIS "MASSACRE OF SPRING" TO LIFE...TO STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF MENTORS AND CREATE MY OWN RITE OF SPRING, AND HERE WE ARE!

THIS PIECE IS FIRST AND FOREMOST A FULL-BODIED EDUCATION FOR ACTORS, AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DESIGNERS TO GO BOLDLY BEYOND LINEAR, NARRATIVE STORYTELLING. IT IS ALSO A DEEP ROMP INTO THE EXPERIENCE OF A COMMUNITY FOR WHOM THE EARTH IS A MOST VALUABLE MEMBER. THÍCH NHẤT HẠNH WRITES THAT YOUR BODY BELONGS TO THE EARTH, AND TO ONE ANOTHER—

"THE TREES, THE CLOUDS, THE SOIL, AND EVERY LIVING THING BROUGHT ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF YOUR BODY...ALL THAT YOU EAT HAS PULLED UP NUTRITION FROM THE SOIL IN ORDER TO GROW. IN THE SOIL ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIED, HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED, AND HAVE BECOME PART OF THE SOIL. MAYBE IN THIS MOUTHFUL OF RICE ARE ALSO THE BONES OF MANY HUNDREDS OF GENERATIONS AS WELL AS MANY DEAD LEAVES, WORMS, AND ANIMAL BONES."

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO LIVE MORE FULLY IN OUR BODIES? AND TO ALLOW OUR BODIES TO FULLY SENSE ONE ANOTHER AND THE NATURAL WORLD OF WHICH WE ARE INEXTRICABLY CONNECTED? WHAT MIGHT IT BE LIKE TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY THAT IS SPIRITUALLY EMBODIED AND LIVING IN THE TRUTH OF INTERDEPENDENCE? AND, WHAT DOES SACRIFICE MEAN TO THOSE LIVING IN A WORLD WHERE THE BODY'S LIFE IS SO VIBRANTLY VALUED?

THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS THAT HAVE EMPOWERED US ON OUR JOURNEY INTO THE AWE-INSPIRING SURGE THAT IS SPRING, THAT IS THE CYCLE OF LIFE. MY HOPE IS THAT THE PERFORMANCE MIGHT AWAKEN A SLIVER OF WHAT RUDOLF OTTO DESCRIBES AS *MYSTERIUM TREMENDUM*—THE GREAT AND OVERWHELMING, SALVATION-BESTOWING POWER OF GOD/NATURE...AND OUR BODIES.



# A Rite of Spring

Music Composed by Peter Stopschinski  
Choreographed by Rebecca Whitehurst



## ENSEMBLE:

ALYSSA SALAS

ARRAJANEE RIVERA

BRETT PUPPILO\*+

CHIAIAH DURST\*

CONNOR STEWART\*

GRACE ASARO\*

HAYLEY DIAZ\*

JACK SKUMMER

JEREMIAH MONTGOMERY\*

JOSE HERNANDEZ

KANE COURTNEY

KEVIN CHAN

CASSANDRA DADY\*+

SYDNEY LYBBERT\*

AMANDA EMERY\*

YULISSA CHAGOLLAN\*

SWING: CAMERON MIDDAUGH\*

^ CAPSTONE \*APO +USITT

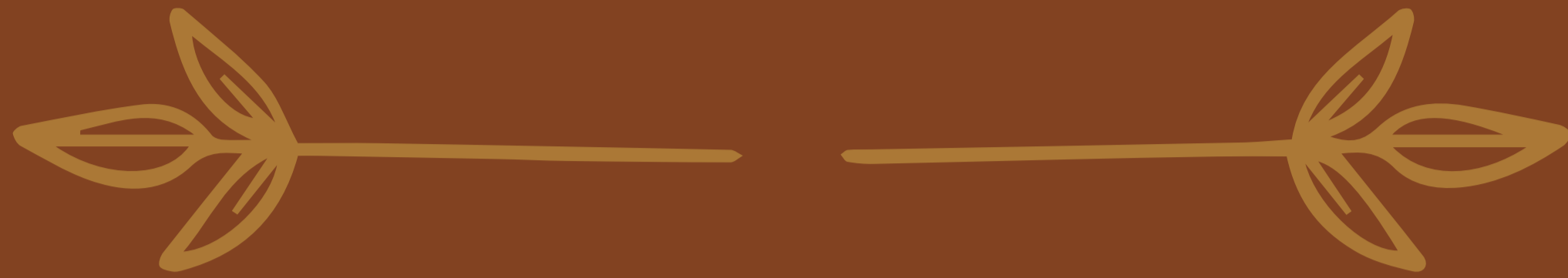




# Creative Team

DIRECTOR-CHOREOGRAPHER.....REBECCA WHITEHURST  
ASST. DIRECTOR.....LEWIS ECKMAN\*  
LIGHTING DESIGN.....AHREN BOENDERA+  
MEDIA DESIGN.....BEN ALEXANDER  
COSTUME DESIGN.....JENNIFER PETERSON  
ASST. COSTUME DESIGN.....NAOMI RUSK\*  
SCENIC & PROPS DESIGN.....MEGAN HILTON

# Production Team



TECHINCAL DIRECTOR.....	MARK DELANCY
STAGE MANAGER.....	TORI MARTINSON+
ASST. STAGE MANAGER.....	SYDNEE MESSERSCHMIDT*+
COSTUME SHOP MANAGER.....	SAMMI GEPPERT
EVENT PROMOTION.....	KATHLEEN M. MCGEEVER
AUDIO ENGINEER.....	BEN ALEXANDER
HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST.....	LEWIS ECKMAN*
DRAPER.....	ISABEL DIAL^+
FIRST HAND.....	CASSANDRA DADY+*

## Special Thanks



PEAKS AUDIO  
CHRIS BOYER  
CHRIS GRIFFIN  
ALEXANDRA CARPINO  
KARELI VANESSA COTA  
JAMIE PAUL  
HEATHER WEISBERGER  
PATRICIA MURPHEY  
THE VISUAL DESIGN LAB (VDL)  
RUTH SOLIN  
JEFF KENNEDY  
GREAT CIRCLE RADIO



# Scenic crew



CREW HEAD: CASSIE FREEDMAN\*  
GRAYSEN GRIMES, KAI PAHNKE,  
DIVINE WAITERS, ERIC NEVERS

# Costume crew




CREW HEAD: ELLE ZIZZI\*  
JAX HAMMAN, HANNAH PALUCH\*,  
EMMA LAW, SPADE HARRINGTON,  
RAVEN MAY, EMILY FREEMAN, REUT BEN-EZAR  
STITCHERS: JORDAN KING, AMAIA EVANS,  
NYA SALAHDEEN, JETT POPLAWSKI,  
CONNOR STEWART\*, MADISON LACKEY



# Lighting and Audio



CREW HEAD: CALLA HAY+  
DAYNA BUSTAMANTE+, ISAAC GREENLAND,  
AIDEN LUCIER, TRINITY MUNIZ, WILLIAM ROSEN





# Front of House

## Events Promotions

CASSIE FREEDMAN\*, ELLE ZIZZI\*,  
CHIAIAH DURST\*, BRETT PUPPILO\*,  
SHAKEY ANDERSON\*, AUSTIN ZOERB\*,  
CONNOR CARREON\*

## House Management

GATES MOESBERGEN, VIRGIL SHIPMEN+,  
AUSTIN ZOERB\*, DAYNA BUSTAMENTE+,  
GRAYSEN GRIMES, HANNAH PALUCH\*,  
JEFFERY HOLMES

## Poster Design

ETHAN FEILBACH

## Program Design

CASSIE FREEDMAN\*

## Department chair

KATHLEEN M. MCGEEVER



# Process Pictures





# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR NAU THEATRE'S 2022 -2023 SEASON

WE STOOD AT A PRECIPICE THIS SEASON AND WE THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AS WE EMBARKED IN THE UNKNOWN WITH THE STORIES WE HAVE TOLD THIS YEAR. WE CLOSE OUR SEASON OUT WITH AN ORIGINAL CREATION THAT GIVES NATURE THE RESPECT THAT SHE DESERVES. *A RITE OF SPRING* IS A FITTING AND INSIGHTFUL END TO OUR PERCH AT THE PRECIPICE ESPECIALLY AFTER THE DIFFICULT WINTER WE HAVE ENDURED. WE WELCOME THE COMING SUMMER, APPLAUD THE STORIES WE HAVE TOLD, CONGRATULATE THOSE WHO WILL GRADUATE, AND SADLY, SAY GOODBYE TO THOSE WHO WILL SOON BE LEAVING US. WE THANK YOU, OUR PATRONS, FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT. WE WISH YOU A HAPPY SUMMER SEASON AND HOPE TO SEE YOU NEXT FALL FOR NAU THEATRE SEASON 2023-2024! WE HAVE A FEELING YOU WILL BE AS EXCITED AS WE ARE ABOUT THE SEASON, AND WE CANNOT KEEP IT A SECRET ANY LONGER.

INSERT DRUM ROLL!

## **HOLMES AND WATSON BY JEFFREY HATCHER, OCTOBER 2023**

THREE YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF THE RENOWNED SHERLOCK HOLMES, DR. JOHN WATSON IS SUMMONED TO THE SHORES OF A REMOTE SCOTTISH ISLAND ON A DARK STORMY NIGHT TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF THREE PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO BE THE LATE, GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES. CAN WATSON DETECT THE IDENTITY OF THE MYSTERY AT HAND? "DON'T MISS THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT, WITTY, NEW LOOK AT THE ADVENTURES OF HOLMES AND WATSON, DREAMED UP BY ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, UNRAVELED IN THIS THRILLING MYSTERY BY AMERICAN PLAYWRIGHT JEFFREY HATCHER."

## **LAS PACUALAS ADAPTED BY EMILY LYON WITH EXPAND THE CANON, NOVEMBER 2023**

WHEN A MYSTERIOUS MAN INEXPLICABLY SHOWS UP TO THEIR HOME, THREE WOMENS' LIVES ARE TRAGICALLY ALTERED WHEN THEY EACH FALL MADLY IN LOVE WITH HIM. ISADORA AGUIRRE'S MODERN DRAMATIZATION OF THIS TRADITIONAL CHILEAN FOLKTALE EXPLORES THE PAIN OF LONELINESS AND FORBIDDEN LOVE.

## **VOICES IN AMERICA: A SERIES OF STAGED READINGS, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2024**

*VOICES IN AMERICA* PRESENTS SOMETHING NEW FOR NAU THEATRE, THE OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT A VARIETY OF AMERICAN VOICES. WHETHER THROUGH STRUGGLE OR JOY, THE PLAYS WE HAVE CURATED FOR THE FIVE SHOW SERIES WILL EXPOSE OUR COMMON HUMANITY. WE INVITE OUR PATRONS TO JOIN US EACH WEEK FOR A NEW STORY FROM THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE.

## **RENT, BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY JONATHAN LARSON, APRIL 2024**

JONATHAN LARSON'S PULITZER PRIZE WINNING MUSICAL *RENT*, HIT BROADWAY BY STORM 26 YEARS AGO AND IT CONTINUES TO RESONATE FOR AUDIENCES. LOOSELY BASED ON PUCCINI'S *LA BOEHME*, *RENT* TELLS THE STORY OF YOUNG ARTISTS STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE AS CREATIVES IN NEW YORK CITY UNDER THE SHADOW OF HIV/AIDS. THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF POVERTY, DISEASE, AND TRAGEDY, *RENT* MAKES CLEAR THAT OUR LIVES LOSE MEANING WITHOUT A COMMUNITY TO GIVE TESTIMONY.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING SEASON. TICKETS WILL GO ON SALE AUGUST 15 AND WE WILL BRING BACK TERRIFIC SAVINGS WITH THE RETURN OF THE SEASON SUBSCRIPTION.

IF YOU HAVE LIKED WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST, PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING TO THE HARPER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FOR PRODUCTION BY FOLLOWING [THIS LINK](#). THE HARPER FAMILY ENDOWMENT FOR PRODUCTION WAS FOUNDED BY TWO PHILANTHROPIC ALUMS WHO SAW THE POWER OF CREATING THEATRE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SETTING AND BEYOND. THANK YOU BILL AND JANA HARPER! THIS FUND HELPS US TO PRODUCE OUR SEASON AND BRING AMAZING STORIES TO LIFE FOR OUR AUDIENCE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE HARPER FUND PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT ACTORS, DESIGNERS, STAGE MANAGERS, CREWS, AND FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF TO LEARN THEATRE BY DOING THEATRE (#DOINGTHEATRE) WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF THEATRE MAKERS. PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING ANY AMOUNT TO THIS IMPORTANT FUND. YOU ARE ALL VERY WELCOME TO OUR HOME, WHERE STORIES EMERGE, ENLIGHTEN, ENTERTAIN, AND BRING US A LITTLE CLOSER TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN.

SLA'INTE (CHEERS) AND BEST WISHES TO ALL!

*KATHLEEN M. MCGEEVER  
DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
PROFESSOR OF PERFORMANCE, DIRECTING  
NAU THEATRE*