ANIMALS OUT OF PAPER
by Rajiv Joseph, directed by Deborah Felder
October 3-4 & 10-11

THE GRAVEDIGGER
A Frankenstein Story
by Joseph Zettelmaier
Directed by John Lapadula
Featuring: Mark Colson, Alysha Kolacz

60/50

THEATRE PROJECT
By Rob Roznowski
in collaboration with Dan Smith
September 18 - 28, 2014

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Dramaturg’s Note:

To mark the 60th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives has sponsored a yearlong series of events called Project 60/50. 60/50 Theatre Project represents the Department of Theatre’s contribution to this campus-wide effort to stimulate conversation and debate around issues of inclusion, diversity, and Civil Rights.

Building on archival research and personal interviews, playwright Rob Roznowski has developed a “fictional documentary” that imagines histories of citizenship at MSU. What does it mean to be a citizen of this community on the banks of the Red Cedar? As Michigan Agricultural College (1909) morphed into Michigan State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (1925) and eventually became Michigan State University (1964), how has Spartan citizenship changed over time? Some characters in this play express their citizenship by wearing green and white, painting the Rock, cheering at football games, and attending such campus events as the J-Hop. Other characters enact citizenship by raising their voices in protest, demanding changes in university policy on a variety of issues. Roznowski defines inclusion broadly: race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, social class, and political ideology are all discussed in this play.

One important aspect of the production is its approach to casting. Each member of the ensemble portrays several characters, and these characters may be of a different race or gender than the performer. This practice is indebted to the work of playwright/performer Anna Deaveres Smith, who crosses race and gender lines in her verbatim performances of interviews, thus raising questions about gender and race as social constructions. Smith will speak at the Wharton Center on November 10, also a part of Project 60/50.

Still, recent events remind us of the materiality of these categories: the invention of a nail polish that can detect date-rape drugs in a drink; the beating of a transgender woman in New York City; the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. 50 and 60 years later, have we come far enough?

Join the conversation!

Check out the Project 60/50 website here: www.project6050.msu.edu

-Dan Smith
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Head of Design .......................................................... ALISON DOBINS
Technician Director ..................................................... JON LITTLE
Costume Shop Supervisor ........................................... ANGIE WENDELMERGER
Scene Shop Supervisor ............................................... JON LITTLE
Scenic Design Faculty Mentor ..................................... KIRK A. DOMER
Costume Design Faculty Mentor ................................. KAREN KANGAS-PRESTON
Light Design Faculty Mentor ..................................... SHANNON SCHWEITZER
Sound Design Faculty Mentor ..................................... JASON PRICE
Media/Stage Management Faculty Mentor ...................... ALISON DOBINS
Assistant Stage Managers ......................................... KATIE ZURBURG, MEGAN COCHRANE
Dramaturg ............................................................... DAN SMITH
Costume Crew Chief .................................................. JENNA PALL
Costume Shop Technicians .............................. STEPHANIE EUBANK*, RAINIE JANG*, MATT IMHOFF*, CHRIS HAUG*, KATIE RAYNARD, SARAH BOTRUFF, JENNA PALL, MARLEY BOONE AND THR 300 & 111 STUDENTS
Deck Crew Chief ....................................................... MARY DILWORTH
Scene Shop Technicians .............................. ELSPEETH WILLIAMS*, DANIEL HOBB*, DANIEL HUSTON* HERNANDO CLAROS*, JACOB MONTGOMERY*, CHRISTOPHER STOWELL* JAKE BROZOVICH, KENZIE CARPENTER, MIKE MERLUZZI AND THR 300, 214 & 111 STUDENTS
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*Denotes Master of Fine Arts

Designer Bios:

Hernando Claros, Colombia, is a second year MFA in Production Design at MSU. His most recent lighting design credits include Brought Into Being, The Serpent Lady, and projection engineer for Giving Birth: The Adventure of Thought. Next Spring he will be designing lighting for Macbeth.

Rainie (Yong) Jang is a MFA Production Design student from China. She recently designed costumes for “Into Her Own,” a piece of Repertory Dance Concert: Brought Into Being. She wants to thank everyone who helps, supports and loves her. The DOT is a second home to her and she loves her new family!

Ceejay Libut is a BFA Design Junior from Saipan, CNMI. He was last seen as Curly the Lost Boy in Peter Pan, but this year, he will be off stage designing the set for 60/50 Theatre Project, assisting props and set design for Les Liaisons Dangereuses, and will be the paint charge for Hair. Did we mention he’s an award winning magician too? (www.CedrickMagic.com) Thank you Pete and Ellen for everything.

Kendall Kotcher (Clarkston, MI) is a BFA Acting and Professional Writing major. This is her first time sound designing a theatre production and is looking forward to learning more about design!

Mike Geeter is a Studio Art senior specializing in sculpture and electronic art (incl. video). He also has experience with mechanical engineering. This is his first production with the DOT!
GUEST ARTIST
ANNA DEAVERE SMITH
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014 AT 7:30 PM — TICKETS $20 @ COBB GREAT HALL

This 2012 National Humanities Medal winner and Founding Director of
Anna Deavere Smith Works will highlight her social and political efforts.
Her presentation coincides with MSU’s 60/50 Project,
a community conversation on civil and human rights.

Presented in partnership with Wharton Center’s World View Lecture Series and the College of Arts and Letters’ Leading Voices Series.

Cast Bios:
Taylor Blair, born and raised in Detroit, Michigan is currently a Sophomore at Michigan State University pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting. This is her first college production and trust - she is crazy excited...and in need of snacks.

Briana Bougard is a third year MSU student and a sophomore BFA in the theatre department. Creed is her favorite character in The Office and she loves lions. Roar!

Laura Chall from Sterling Heights, MI is a senior Acting BFA. She was last seen as Badur in MSU’s The Serpent Lady. She is so excited to be part of this ensemble and wishes all of her cast members broken legs!

Elijah El is an actor from Livonia, Michigan. He is a sophomore at Michigan State University with a BA in theatre. He was previously seen in Deric McNish’s Off with Her Head.

Kendall Kotche (Clarkston, MI) is a BFA Acting and Professional Writing major. Her recent credits include: The Serpent Lady, William Shakespeare’s Land of the Dead, and U.P.. She would like to thank her professors for the opportunity to work on a new play, and her family and friends for their support.

Yifan Luo, Hospitality Major, second year graduate student. This is my first show at MSU and I am excited to work with so many talented actors in such a wonderful show.

Iphsita Moitra is a Junior studying broadcast journalism and minoring in theatre. She is from New Delhi India and 60/50 is her first big role. She is really excited to be a part of this show.

Kara O’Connor is a senior BFA actor at MSU. She was recently seen as food-crazed commedia character Brighella in MSU’s The Serpent Lady. Kara is excited to be a part of 60/50, addressing issues to motivate change. Welcome to the Conversation!

Jake Samson is a junior at MSU, majors in Media and Information with a Theatre minor. He was recently seen in William Shakespeare’s Land of the Dead and Cyrano De Bergerac. Jake likes piña coladas and getting caught in the rain.

Jeremy M. Stevens is a BFA Acting student at MSU. His work (under his professional name, Devin Giroux) has been performed at La Petite Morgue in NYC and recently at the Renegade Theatre Festival in East Lansing, MI. He divides his time acting and working on his next writing project.

Christi Thibodeau is a junior BFA actor, last seen as the whimsical wind fairy Zemina in The Serpent Lady. Being part of 60/50 has been such an enriching experience for her, and she hopes her cast mates break all the legs!

Margaret Turbett is a sophomore BA in theatre and she was last seen performing as the Queen of Hearts in Off with Her Head. Maggie would like to thank her family, her friends, and especially the cast and crew of 60/50 for making all of this possible.

Melanie Wong is a Junior Dietetics major. Melanie was active in theatre while in high school but focused more on her academics and dance when she came to college. She is glad to be back on stage, especially for a show as powerful as 60/50 Theatre Project.
SPECIAL THANKS:

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Ignacio Andrade, Lynn Lammers, Therese Brimmer and Audrey Bentley from the Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives

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