Michigan State University Department of Theatre Announces our 2017-2018 Season: Divergent Voices

In a time where debate may be equivalent to yelling; where respect can mean only similar points of view; where we all seem to only agree on disagreement – theatre must do what it was created to do— offer an outlet for DIVERGENT VOICES.

We in the MSU Department of Theatre offer chances to examine topics, characters and stories from differing perspectives. Our season offers a chance for debate about contrasting interpretations; exploration of characters dissimilar to ourselves with respect; productions that allow audiences to embrace disagreement related to theatrical experiences.

Our season is devoted to compelling stories with varying points of view from our own to illuminate our similarities and our differences – offering a platform for DIVERGENT VOICES.

ímáGen Title: TBA New Musical
Pasant Theatre: September 22-24

The Great Gatsby
Based on the novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Adapted for the Stage by Simon Levy
Directed by Deric McNish
Pasant Theatre: October 13-22

In the extravagance and decadence of the roaring twenties, when thoughtless millionaires ruled with impunity, the mysterious Gatsby describes Daisy, his one obsession: “Her voice is full of money.” Passion and greed infect the American dream in this adaptation, where F. Scott Fitzgerald’s voice remains fresh as we watch the rich escape consequences and the power of money to corrupt.

Haunted Aud
MSU Auditorium Building: October 28-31
Are the voices in your head? Are you brave enough to allow those tormented souls trapped within the Auditorium? Don’t diverge from the path! (All proceeds go to student initiatives.)

The Misanthrope
By Molière
Translated by Constance Congdon
Directed by Dan Smith
Arena Theatre: November 10-19

This French classic is a comedy of manners about friendship and love in a world of absolute power enforced through surveillance. While his friends and rivals wield wit for sport and use compliments as commerce, Alceste’s dissenting voice seeks truth at all costs.
Freshman Showcase: Giants Have Us In Their Books & Other Works by Jose Rivera
By Jose Rivera
Directed by Dionne O’Dell
Studio Theatre: November 30- December 3
An opportunity for the new voices in the MSU Theatre Department to shine. Jose Rivera's collection of short, fantastical, "children's plays for adults" is infused with magical realism and metaphor, exploring diverse perspectives and divergent realities. Mr. Rivera will be a guest on campus in the Spring of 2018, and we are pleased to include his provocative work in our season.

Thus With a Kiss I Die
Conceived and directed by Rob Roznowski
Fairchild Theatre: February 16-25
This immersive theatre piece follows the days and hours leading up to a murder that takes place during a performance of Romeo and Juliet at a small southern university. The audience seeks clues to identify the victim and murderer as they follow the numerous characters through the nooks and crannies of the Auditorium. Each audience members experience is unique in this experimental piece that diverges from traditional theatrical forms.

Dog Act
By Liz Duffy Adams
Directed by Christina Traister
Arena Theatre: March 16-25
This capstone thesis production featuring the 2018 MFA Acting candidates follows the traveling performer Zetta Stone and her companion Dog and her diverse theatre troupe in this post-apocalyptic vaudeville as they journey through the wilderness of the former Northeast U.S., heading toward a gig in China. Will they find it? Will their voices be heard? Will they survive the journey?

American Idiot
Book and lyrics by Billie Joe Armstrong
Book by Michael Mayer
Music and lyrics by Green Day
Directed and choreographed by Brad Willcuts
Musical direction by Dave Wendelberger
Pasant Theatre: April 13-22
A rallying cry for 21st century American youth, this Rock Opera examines the boundaries and diverging voices of love and rage, patriotism and anarchy and the personal vs. the political. This Tony award-winning musical with Grammy Award winning music explodes onto the stage as a high-octane exploration of what it means to young and different in suburban America.