



MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

One of the greatest opportunities in theatre is discovering how an old story is newly relevant. In selecting a show, we ask, “What is it about this particular story that has a direct connection with the world we live in *today*?” If new show creation is an artistic invention, presenting a well-known classic is the work of reinvention. Our 2019-2020 season is a rousing mix of the familiar and the new. We hope that you will consider being a season subscriber to the MSU Department of Theatre and join our student inventors.

The season commences with our **fifth** collaborative production with the MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity at Wharton Center, *Dr. Fox and the Impossible Cure for Death*. The ĩmáGen program, featuring Broadway talent and MSU students, continues to be an incredible opportunity for our students and encompasses the true spirit of invention.

Since 2014, MSU has helped to fund the Big Ten Theatre Consortium **New Plays by and about Women** initiative. Each year, the Consortium commissions a play which serves to counteract the lack of female playwrights and complex roles for women in the industry. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to present this year’s contribution, which goes a step further to include a cast of any race or ethnicity and welcomes female-identifying, genderqueer, and non-binary actors in all roles.

Our strong media acting focus, exciting design programs, and celebrated outreach initiatives, rounded out by iconic pieces of theatre, demonstrates that the MSU Department of Theatre thrives by reinventing how theatre can be elevated to a champion for diverse voices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kirk A. Down". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

SEPTEMBER 21 - 22
PASANT THEATRE

imàGEN

New Musical Development



DR. FOX AND THE IMPOSSIBLE CURE FOR DEATH

BOOK & MUSIC BY BENEDICT BRAXTON-SMITH

BOOK & LYRICS BY MEGAN PETERSON

Follow a precocious 13 year-old girl and her overly-imaginative father as they search a storybook world for a cure to a brain tumor in this very curious musical twist on the water of life myth.

DIRECTED BY TIMOTHY KOCH

OCTOBER 11 - 20
PASANT THEATRE



FRANKENSTEIN

ADAPTED BY QUINN MATTFELD

A new adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic novel examining gender norms and the plight of humanity at the hands of a thoughtless creator.
Just because science *can*...doesn't mean it *should*.

DIRECTED BY RYAN WELSH

STUDENT INITIATIVES

SECOND STAGE PRODUCTIONS

Second Stage Productions is a student organization where they are given the opportunity to think imaginatively in order to achieve their vision for storytelling on the stage. Students are encouraged to express themselves through directing, acting, design, and production in a collective, experimental atmosphere.



ORCHESIS

Orchesis, a student organization working closely with dance and theatre faculty, welcomes all MSU students interested in dance to be members. The group's mission is to enhance and enrich the presence of dance as an art form on campus.

HAUNTED AUD

For over a decade MSU theatre students have created a scarily successful hellraiser of a fundraiser supporting numerous student initiatives and student organizations with all of its proceeds.



NOVEMBER 8 - 17
ARENA THEATRE



TWELFTH NIGHT

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A madcap tale of mistaken identities and misplaced affection, Shakespeare's sexy comedy is a timeless tale where no one is who or what they seem.

DIRECTED BY GUS KAIKKONEN

NOVEMBER 21 - 24

STUDIO 60



FRESHMAN SHOWCASE: THE POWER OF SPONTANEOUS INVENTION

An evening of improvisation introducing the newest members of the department. Meet the next generation as they take your suggestions to invent a new show every night!

DIRECTED BY SARAH HENDRICKSON

FEBRUARY 14 - 23
FAIRCHILD THEATRE



INTO THE WOODS

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE

Be careful what you wish for in this magical world full of familiar fairytale characters. In this Tony Award-winning, deliciously dark musical, everyone's wish is granted, but at a price.

DIRECTED BY DERIC MCNISH
CHOREOGRAPHED BY ALISA HAUSER
MUSIC DIRECTION BY DAVE WENDELBERGER

MARCH 13 - 22
STUDIO 60

Big Ten Theatre Consortium



BONNETS: HOW LADIES OF GOOD BREEDING ARE INDUCED TO MURDER

BY JEN SILVERMAN

A Rock 'n Roll Story of Unrequited Love, one about Lust, and another about Jealousy, that fall into each other across Space and Time, ending in a total blood bath, narrated by God.

DIRECTED BY ANN FOLINO WHITE

APRIL 10 - 19
PASANT THEATRE



MARIAN, OR THE TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD

BY ADAM SZYMKOWICZ

A gender-bending, patriarchy smashing, hilarious new take on the classic tale explores the cost of revealing your true self in a time of trouble.

DIRECTED BY ALEXIS BLACK

JOIN OUR DONOR GROUP: **FRIENDS OF THEATRE**

A donation of any kind makes you a Friend of Theatre at MSU, an organization created to promote and support activities in Theatre and Dance.

[THEATRE.MSU.EDU/DONATE](https://theatre.msu.edu/donate)

BUY SEASON SUBSCRIPTIONS

MSU STUDENTS:

\$75 admits one student to all productions, not including Haunted AUD (purchaser must present a current MSU student ID).

SENIORS & FACULTY:

\$90 admits one to all productions, not including Haunted AUD.

GROUP RATES:

Groups of 15 or more are eligible for 10% off regular ticket prices. Please note that group tickets must be purchased through the Wharton Box Office at least 24 hours in advance of the date of performance. Group Rates do not include Haunted AUD.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS:

Individual tickets at all productions (except Haunted AUD) will be available at the Wharton Center box office.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
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