



Union College Department
of Theater & Dance

**7 PLAYS /
7 DAYS**

**A FESTIVAL OF SHORT WORKS
CREATED IN ONE WEEK!**

**This festival of playwrights, directors, creators, and performers
is funded through the generous support of Alan Gnessin, '76.**

The image features a solid red background. At the top, there are several thin, white, wavy lines that curve across the frame. Below these, there are three horizontal white lines of varying lengths, stacked vertically. The central text is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are more white wavy lines, similar to the ones at the top, curving across the lower portion of the image.

**THIS SHOW CONTAINS LOUD NOISES
AND MATURE THEMES AND TOPICS,
INCLUDING THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE.**

AUDIENCE DISCRETION IS ADVISED

7 PLAYS / 7 DAYS

FEATURING PIECES BY

**Tanya Everett, DJ Hills, Jamie Olah,
JC Pankratz, Gretchen Suárez Peña**

Production Directed by Hettie Barnhill

Production Stage Manager -- Sara Friedman

Scenic/Lighting Design -- Drew Bodd

Costume Design -- Brittney Belz

Assistant Costume Design -- Sasha Stark

Sound Design -- Armaan Uppal

Technical Director -- Drew Bodd

Properties Design -- Kyra Kelly

DIRECTORS

Hettie Barnhill, Jolita Brettler, Tanya Everett, Desiré Graham,
B Kleymeyer, Malia'Kekia Nicolini, Gabriel Thom Pasculli,
Jasmine Roth '14, Brian Rusk

ENSEMBLE

Aaron Armstrong, Addox Overkamp, Anthony Montás, Anya Landi,
Ava Duboff, Beatriz Silva de Almeida, Camilo Bitar Racedo,
Christian Thompson, Dana Aument, Emily Tobar, Emma Kennedy,
Fay Janssen, Jack Harmon, Jady Xiong, Jennifer Mendez,
Jerome Anderson, Lilian Ruggieri, Lily Cunningham, Maddy Pilkington,
Maya Wines, Melanie De La Cruz, Seo Chutaro, Spencer Newman,
Vic Lucontoni, Victoria Sargent

**THIS FESTIVAL OF PLAYWRIGHTS, DIRECTORS,
CREATORS, AND PERFORMERS IS FUNDED THROUGH
THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF ALAN GNESSIN, '76.**

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Managers -- Melissa Lubina, Lexi Knowles, Phoebe Ferguson,
Regan Roitz, Lili Wang, Grace Newcombe

House Manager -- Komila Dustbabayeva

Box Office Team -- Brendan Cullen, Emmett Suh

Scene Shop Supervisor -- Robin MacDuffie

Run Crew

Light Board Operator -- Holden Talluto-Hiris

Sound Board Operator -- Armaan Uppal

Wardrobe/Hair/Makeup Crew -- Grace Newcombe

Stagecraft

Seo Chutaro, Phoebe Ferguson, Annalsia Gonzalez, Lexi Knowles,

Anya Landi, Willow Montgomery, Maddy Pilkington, Regan Roitz,

Lilian Ruggieri, Matt Smith, Armaan Uppal

Scene Shop Workstudy

Zach Dickinson, Holden Talluto-Hiris, Gavin McKierman, Lexi Knowles,

Jerome Anderson, Regan Roitz, Eli Valore-Caplan, Jasper Greer

Costume Shop Workstudy

Dana Aument, Elaine Du, Dove Hoque, Evelyn Mallory, Caitlin Phipps,

Christian Thompson

Publicity & Production Workstudy

Beatriz Silva De Almeida, Madelaine Pilkington, Brian Rusk

THEATER & DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

OMONIKE AKINYEMI - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE - FLAMENCO

**HETTIE VYRINE BARNHILL - VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATER &
DANCE**

**BRITTNEY BELZ - DEPARTMENT CHAIR, COSTUME DESIGNER & COSTUME
SHOP SUPERVISOR**

DREW BODD - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & LIGHTING SUPERVISOR

CHRISTINE GEREN - ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE - BALLET & PILATES

CHARLIE JONES - [ON LEAVE] OFFICE ASSISTANT

KYRA KELLY - FALL 2024 OFFICE ASSISTANT

ROBIN MACDUFFIE - SCENE SHOP SUPERVISOR

GABRIEL THOM PASCULLI - LECTURER OF PERFORMANCE/DIRECTING

FREDDY RAMIREZ -ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR OF DANCE - JAZZ & BROADWAY

**JASMINE ROTH '14 - VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PERFORMANCE/
DIRECTING**

VICTORIA ROTONDI - ARTS DEPARTMENT COORDINATOR

**DAN VENNING - ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF DRAMATIC LITERATURE,
THEATRE HISTORY, & PERFORMANCE CRITICISM**

LAURIE ZABELE CAWLEY - LECTURER OF DANCE

**PATRICIA CULBERT - PROFESSOR EMERITA THEATER AND DANCE FACULTY
1997-2019.**

**WILLIAM A. FINLAY - SENIOR LECTURER EMERITUS CHAIR OF THEATER AND
DANCE FROM 1994-2019**

**MIRYAM MOUTILLET - GUSTAVE L. DAVIS '59 & SUSAN S. DAVID DIRECTOR
OF THE DANCE PROGRAM/SENIOR ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE EMERITA
1996-1999 & 2001-2022**

**CHARLES STECKLER - PROFESSOR EMERITUS THE DWANE W. CRICHTON
OF THEATER, STAGE DESIGNER 1971-2017**

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR'S NOTE

This term, we decided to pivot from our usual single-production format, where students typically work with one director over several weeks leading up to the show. Instead, we wanted to offer something different—an opportunity for students to work with multiple directors and playwrights on new, original works. The 7 Plays & 7 Days Festival was designed to embrace that diversity, presenting a showcase of fresh perspectives.

Students were fully immersed in a fast-paced process and participated in an 8-day ensemble building boot camp to prepare them for collaboration with each other and working with the new directors and materials. The cast for these productions is not limited to theater majors or minors and brings an exciting mix of Union's student body to the stage. This diversity of backgrounds, beliefs, and viewpoints enriches the experience for everyone involved.

Personally, I believe this festival mirrors the complexity of our society, where we are constantly navigating information from a wide range of sources. The students couldn't cherry-pick their most comfortable scenarios—they had to trust the process, learning what it truly means to work as an ensemble. This experience has given them invaluable tools and skills for their theater practice, while also showing the importance of diving into works that may still be in progress but are no less significant.

I'm thrilled to be one of the directors featured in the 7 Plays & 7 Days Festival, and I look forward to seeing not only my own work come to life but also the incredible work of all.

- Hettie Barnhill

The Need For Human Touch

Written & Directed by Tanya Everett

Stage Manager -- Lili Wang

CAST

Jady Xiong ----- Karina
Maddy Pilkington ----- Wanda
Dana Aument ----- Sasha

This piece is a love letter to my family friend, Kess, and all the victims of Hurricane Helene, as well as victims of devastation everywhere. It's also the one thing I feel that I can do, in the face of just immense tragedy and devastation.

I'm curious about how humans can navigate the loss of their homes, their streets, their things, and still find humor and joy and community. How do we survive the unimaginable?

I'm interested in the things that are unsaid in loss—how we triumph in adverse circumstances, inexplicably, but also how the things that we love cling to us like a wet blanket.

There is beauty, among the devastation. These women watch the sunset, and are grateful for another day. And grateful for one another, despite their circumstances. As Tony Kushner writes, they are grateful for "more life."



Descendants

By Jamie Olah

Directed by Jolita Brettler

Stage Managers -- Sara Friedman, Regan Roitz

CAST

Jack Harmon----- Uli

Anthony Montás ----- Owen

Seo Chutaro ----- Dahlia

Addox Overcamp ----- Nathaniel

Anya Landi ----- Isabelle/Jasline

This incredible physical experience^á allowed us to find in our bodies pain, loneliness, awkwardness and joy while remaining grounded in the reality of life. The struggle to retain humanity in life has always struck me as a poignant quality of being human that plays quietly in the backgrounds of our lives. *Descendants* called for me to reflect on the ways we constantly choose to connect with others and are constantly taking things away from the relationships in our lives. When all the words are stripped away and only the memories remain, what is the shape of the imprint we've left on the people we've met along the way? How can we be active in our lives while also being at the whim of what it means to be interconnected within the human experience? This play is an exploration of our roles as complex humans existing beyond our pasts all the while walking into an unknown future.



One Day We'll be Two Old Ghosts

By DJ Hills

Directed by B Kleymeyer

Stage Manager -- Phoebe Ferguson

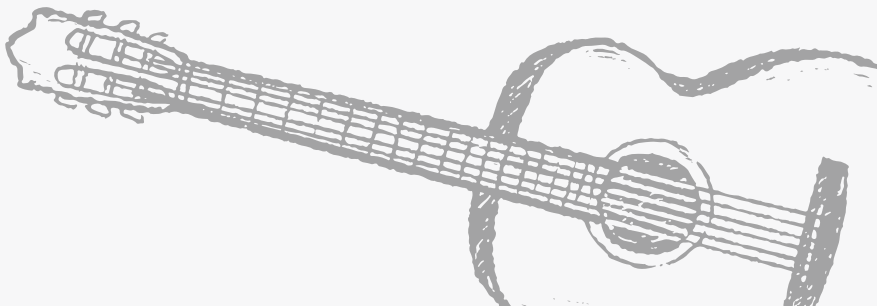
CAST

Lilian Ruggieri ----- Nora
Jerome Anderson ----- Cody

DJ Hills's play is not about how shitty life can be or about the systems that are rigged against us as trans people. Rather, this is a play about how beautiful it is to go through life with a best friend.

"I hold this to be the highest task of a bond between two people: that each should stand guard over the solitude of the other."

- Rainer Maria Rilke, Letters to a Young Poet



Facing 'Isms' **Towards a Shared Sky**

Written & Directed by Hettie Barnhill

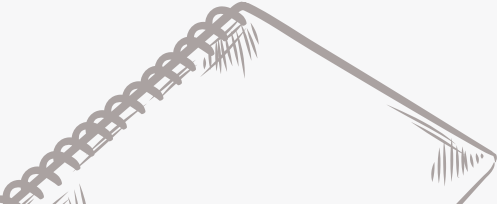
Stage Manager -- Regan Roitz

CAST

Emily Tobar ----- Dia Tamari
Melanie De La Cruz ----- Haniya
Ava Duboff ----- Krystyna
Victoria Sargent ----- Amy Good
Beatriz Silva de Almeida ----- Dr. Zanmi

Facing 'Isms' Towards a Shared Sky is a new devised play exploring the impact of international conflicts, focusing on Palestine, Haiti, and Ukraine. It is driven by the central question: What connects these nations, and how do we, as distant observers, reconcile our proximity to these struggles—or even recognize it at all?

This play was developed through both a self written and devised process, drawing from a collection of texts, including documented notes from the Through the Portal conference held in Chicago from September 20-22, 2024, personal poems, and reflections on my own feelings of duality in existence. Additionally, it was inspired by essays from the book Light in Gaza. Thank you to my amazing cast, creative and production team!



MOONWALKER

By Gretchen Suárez Peña

Directed by Brian Rusk

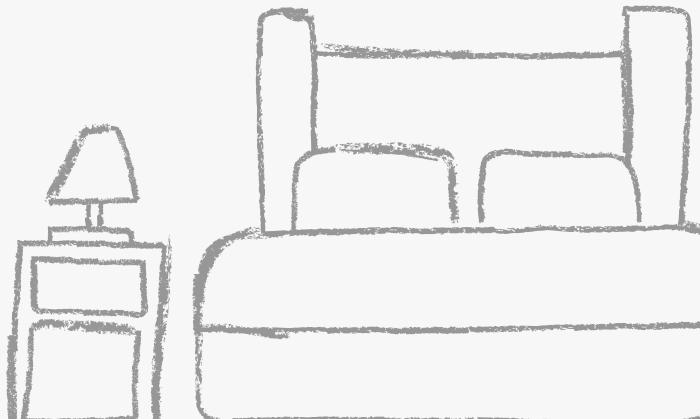
Stage Manager -- Melissa Lubina

CAST

Aaron Armstrong ----- Anisha

Christian Thompson ----- Insomnia

The modern-day human has a lot going on. Between a full-time job that always seems to be demanding more; taking care of themselves and their families; and the hobbies and friends that also have to fit into the day; hyper-productivity has become the norm, and that wears down the human psyche. Anisha is a single mom working full time to support her daughter, and the only thing she wants after a long day is to go to bed. Insomnia, her tormentor, can't let that happen. Ultimately, *MOONWALKER* seeks to explore this question: In an environment designed to break you, how can you save both yourself and others?



That's Why I'm Going Away

**Co-Directed By Desiré Graham,
Malia'Kekia Nicolini, Gabriel Thom Pasculli**

**Co-Created & with Original Text
by the Ensemble**

Stage Manager -- Grace Newcombe

ENSEMBLE

Lily Cunningham, Fay Janssen, Emma Kennedy,
Vic Lucontoni, Jennifer Mendez, Camilo Bitar Racedo

"We're going to Mars because whatever is wrong with us will not
get right with us so we journey forth
carrying the same baggage
but every now and then leaving
one little bitty thing behind"

- Nikki Giovanni from *Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea*
(*We're Going to Mars*)

In our short devised piece, we will be launching from one world to another. It's not clear yet if we'll be taking off and landing, or if in the world of this play, it's a one-way trip. It's not clear yet what kind of rocket we'll need, or what kind of jet fuel, or boosters, or blast. But we all come from somewhere, and we'll need to get that in order--as much as it ever can be in order--before we go.



Salt, Light, Spear

By JC Pankratz

Directed by Jasmine Roth

Stage Manager -- Lexi Knowles

Costume Designer -- Sasha Stark

CAST

Maya Wines ----- Kira
Spencer Newman ----- Cyan

I am excited to bring you this premier production of J.C. Pankratz's new short play, *Salt. Light. Spear.* When J.C. and I first started collaborating, we talked about our love of queer stories, the supernatural, and making plays with a little bit of magic. Then they wrote this piece, which has all of those elements, and naturally, I loved it. At the core, this play is about what it takes to banish what's haunting you, and the people who help you feel strong enough to do that. I am grateful for the work of our whole team as we've brought this play to life these last few days and for the opportunity to bring this new work to the Union community.



DIRECTORS

Tanya Everett / The Need For Human Touch

Tanya Everett moved from Mass to Brooklyn to pursue her career as an actor and writer. Her plays have been performed in many Off and Off-off Broadway venues: including the Public, Cherry Lane, HERE Arts Center, TheaterLab, Kraine, Cherry Pit and the Tank. Her play *And The Gods Walk Among Us* was named Semi-Finalist for the Princess Grace Award and Finalist for the Lark Development Week. Her play, *A Dead Black Man*, was a Finalist for the Dramatist Guild Fellowship in 2019. Her short play *Thousand Miles*, is nominated for a 2019 for a Drama League Award with the AFO Shorts Festival. She graduated from Brooklyn College with her MFA in Playwriting, under Mac Wellman and Erin Courtney. She won the AAUW Career Development Grant, the Truman Capote Scholarship, and the 2018 MFA in Playwriting Awards to support her academic pursuits. She is working on several projects in development for film and TV. She is represented by Tim Phillips at UTA and Dan Halsted at Management. Thank you to my dear Hettie Barnhill, and the wonder that is Brittney Belz!

Jolita Brettler / Descendants

Jolita Brettler is a senior Theater major from New York City. Their work in the theater department has included performing in ghettos productions of *Everybody, Sweat, Patriot Acts: A Suffrage Pageant for our Times*, and *You on the Moors Now*. This is Jolita's directing debut in the Union College Theater Department and they cannot wait for everyone to witness the process of crafting theater from a new perspective. Thank you so much to our wonderful crew and cast!

B Kleymeyer / One Day We'll Be Two Old Ghosts

B Kleymeyer (She/Her) is a director of theater, performance, and film. Select Directing Credits: *i think i'm starting to want to be a Mother* (Carnegie Mellon University), *The Real Girls* (Project Y Theatre), *Adult Things* (Carnegie Mellon University), *i'm not done with this body* (Kelly Strayhorn Theatre), *Kiss Me Mr. Musk* (Single Carrot Theatre), *we broke up*. (Single Carrot Theatre). Associate Directing: *Importance of Being Earnest* (Pittsburgh Public Theatre and Baltimore CenterStage dir. Jenny Koons). Upcoming: *Medea* (Community College of Baltimore County). B has been a John Wells Directing Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University and a Freshworks Artist-In-Residence at the Kelly Strayhorn Theatre. B's work is a collective prayer, a model of the world we wish to build, and a place of transformation.

Hettie Barnhill / Facing 'Isms' Towards a Shared Sky

Hettie Barnhill (She/They), Visiting Professor in Theater and Dance, is an Educator, Filmmaker, Director, and Choreographer who founded Create A Space NOW, an interactive social justice platform utilizing art to confront bias, racism, and systemic oppression. She also produces the Activated Artist Fest in New York's Capital Region. Hettie's career has earned her the NAACP's Top 21 Leaders 40 & Under Award in Arts & Culture, the Shirley Chisholm Women of Excellence Award, and recent recognition from the California Senate for using film to foster community engagement. Her award-winning film, *A Love Letter to Brian, Lesley, and Michelle*, has gained international acclaim. On stage, Hettie has over 20 years of professional experience, including Broadway roles in *Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark*, *FELA!* (original cast), and *Leap of Faith* (original cast), alongside performances with Second City Chicago and Urban Bush Women. Her directorial works include *Handle With Care*, *Conversations Embodied*, *Woke-Ness In The Body & Freedom Dance Floors*, and *Skin/Disordered* for Create A Space NOW. Hettie has presented her insights on art and activism widely, including with MLK Saratoga and One Billion Rising. With an MFA from Goddard College, she fosters learning that merges culture, history, and activism. Hettie will direct *Once On This Island* in 2025.

Brian Rusk / MOONWALKER

Brian Rusk is a senior theater major at Union College and is thrilled to be making his directorial debut with *MOONWALKER* in the Theater Department's *7 Plays / 7 Days*. Previous Union College performance credits include Laurie in *You On The Moors Now*, Georg Nowack in *She Loves Me*, Alejandro Hoffman in *FLORIDITA: my Love*, Jason in *Sweat*, Chip Tolentino in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Friendship/ Evil in *Everybody*. In his dwindling spare time, he likes star-gazing, befriending stray cats, and staying up way too late playing video games. He would like to thank his family, the theater faculty, guest creators and managers, and the incredibly dedicated students working to make this production possible. Enjoy the show!

Desiré Graham / That's Why I'm Going Away

Desiré Graham is a submerging Artist In-Practice from Harlem, NY and holds a BFA in Theatre Arts from Boston University and Minor in Black studies where she earned the Kahn Career Entry Award in 2018. Graham is now a 2024 Princess Grace Foundation Award winner. She has appeared in productions with Speakeasy Stage, New Repertory Theatre, FreshInk Theatre, Hibernian Hall in Boston, MA and was a company member at the Workshop of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, in Italy, from 2019-2022. Graham currently works with Double Edge Theatre, VLA Dance, and Wender Collective as a recurring collaborator. Additionally, Graham curates The Black Residency and hosts the workshop series entitled Somewhere in Between, for BIPOC and ALAANA peoples to discover the use of communal singing, give weight to their vibrational soul, activate, and call on others to join in. Over the course of her career, she has previously received awards and various honoraria from MASS MoCA, American Repertory Theater, Connecticut Office of the Arts, and other cultural organizations.

Malia'Kekia Nicolini / That's Why I'm Going Away

Malia'Kekia Nicolini ('O ia/She/They) received her inoa (name) traditionally from inoa po (mothers dream), inoa ho'ailona (symbol), and inoa ulaleo (ancestors voice). They are a Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) teaching artist, internationally touring performer, choreographer, artistic director, speaker, & gratitude enthusiast. Malia'Kekia is the Co-Founder of B4 The Other Creations which travels throughout the US & internationally offering Pedagogy of Play. Malia'Kekia is the Northeast Lead Trainer for Narrative 4 (empathy through storytelling). 'O ia co-facilitated the Black & Indigenous Futures Convening with Howlround Theater Commons & ArtsEmerson. As an interdisciplinary artist, 'o ia weaves all their experience together to empower dreams & create beauty. BFA (Music Theater), MBA (Mindfulness in Business Practices), BIPOC Leadership (ArtEquity), Arts & Culture Organizational Management (Harvard).

Gabriel Thom Pasculli / That's Why I'm Going Away

Gabriel Thom Pasculli (He/They) is a theater maker and a new Lecturer in Performance and Directing at Union College. Before coming to Union, Gabriel Thom was an artistic director of the Wender Collective in Chicago (formerly known as Walkabout Theater Company), where they directed outdoor public stilt spectacles as well as original, internationally-touring ensemble performances. Dedicated to processes of ensemble co-creation, Gabriel is thrilled for this opportunity to work with Union students alongside their frequent collaborators Malia'Kekia and Desiré. Gabriel has so much gratitude for their students, for their colleagues in this department, and it is such a joy to work together with such an incredible group of guest artists for this festival!

Jasmine Roth / Salt, Light, Spear

Jasmine Roth '14 is a director and choreographer using performance to investigate and witness ritual, agency, healing, and change. They are joining the Union faculty after three years as a John Wells Directing Fellow at Carnegie Mellon University. Before Carnegie Mellon, Jasmine worked for Arizona Theatre Company for five years serving as the Director of Education for the last two. During her tenure, she founded ATC Teen to provide free, accessible, and equitable theater education focusing on the empowerment of teen artists, ran a flagship of TCG's Veteran Playwriting Project, deepened community partnerships, and expanded education programming to adult artists and community members. Jasmine previously studied theater and dance at Union College in upstate NY, where she graduated summa cum laude.

ENSEMBLE

THE NEED FOR HUMAN TOUCH

Dana Aument / Sasha

Dana Aument (She/Her) is a junior Biology major from Woodstock, MD. She is thrilled to be performing in her fourth show here at Union, her previous roles include Little Girl/Time in *Everybody*, and Alice Paul/Ensemble in *Patriot Acts*. Other roles outside of Union include Little Red in *Into the Woods*, and Serena in *Legally Blonde*. Dana also works behind the scenes in the costume shop and is an active member of the Jewish community here at Union. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Maddy Pilkington / Wanda

Maddy Pilkington (She/Her) is a sophomore from Rockville, MD. She is majoring in Archeoastronomy and minoring in Theater. At Union, Maddy has assistant stage managed a production of *You On the Moors, Now*, and has been in the ensemble of Mountebanks' *She Loves Me*. This year, Maddy is the president of Mountebanks, the student-run theater group, and looks forward to a great season with them! Maddy has been so excited to be a part of *7 Plays / 7 Days*, and can't wait for a great show. She wants to thank all of the theater professors and students for being such a welcoming and supportive community. Lots of love!!

Jady Xiong / Karina

Jady Xiong (She/Her) is a part-time student from Beijing. She majored in Electrical Engineering and Law, gaining experience in four different countries. This is her first show at Union and she is excited to explore this new world. In her spare time, she loves traveling and playing board games. She is eager to learn and grow through this experience and is thankful for the support of her friends and family. Enjoy the show!

DESCENDANTS

Seo Chutaro / Dahlia

Seo Chutaro (She/They) is a sophomore from Honolulu, Hawaii majoring in Political Science and History. She has previously performed for the Union College Theater Department as Milagros in *FLORIDITA: my Love*, Lucy Stone and others in *Patriot Acts*, and Caroline Bingley/Amy March in *You on the Moors Now*. She is very grateful for the wonderful cast and crew of *7 Plays / 7 Days* and hopes that you enjoy the shows!

Jack Harmon / Uli

Jack Harmon (He/Him) is a first-year student from Raymond, NH, and is going for a Math and/or Physics major. Ever since his first and only exposure to a production in kindergarten and preschool, he wanted to be in a theater production. After many practices and with difficult trials, he can't wait to put out his hard work and give a wonderful show. Above all, he wants to thank and show off to God for giving him such a wonderful opportunity for "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Anya Landi / Isabelle/Jasline

Anya Landi (She/Her) is a sophomore from The Bronx. She is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Creative Writing (and possibly Theater in the near future). She played Nelly Dean and Beth in Union College's production of *You On The Moors Now*, as well as several different ensemble roles in productions like *Aida*, *Once On This Island*, *The Addams Family*, *Into The Woods*, *Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory*, *Annie*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. She would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her, and most of all her cat Midnight for being her anchor and dealing with her nonsense. She's so excited to perform in this project, and hopes you all enjoy it!

Anthony Montás / Owen

Anthony Montás (She/They) is a Junior Theater and Psychology ID Major from Boston, MA. They have performed in shows like *SWEAT*, *Patriot Acts*, *You On The Moors Now*, and The Union 2024 Winter Dance Concert. She is very proud to be a part of this festival and is excited for you to see what's in store.

Addox Overcamp / Nathaniel

Addox Overcamp (All Pronouns) is excited to explore Union's theater scene as a first year student coming from Saint Louis, Missouri. Throughout high school they have performed in roles such as Patrick Simmons in *A Murder Is Announced*, Spike in *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, Joseph Garcin in *No Exit*, and Dr. George Bradman in *Blithe Spirit*, among other roles both onstage and as a crew member. Outside of theater, Addox enjoys rock climbing, playing dungeons and dragons, and goofing around with friends. They thank everyone for coming and hope they enjoy the performance.

ONE DAY WE'LL BE TWO OLD GHOSTS

Jerome Anderson / Cody

Jerome Anderson (He/They) is a junior (Yikes :() and a first gen student from Chicago. He is a Psych/Theater double major and a GSW minor. Their introduction to performance on "the big stage" was a concert style *Hamilton* in high school. At Union he was in *Everybody*, played Child 1 in *FLORIDITA: my Love*, and Prof. Bhaer in *You on the Moors Now*. They also work in the Scene Shop, shout out workstudy crew! Very special thanks to Brittney, Jasmine, Drew, Lexi, and all my friends in the cast and crew for being my rocks, advocates, and looking out for me this show. Shout out to Regan, Phoebe, Lexi and Hazel for being an amazing SM crew! Thank you to all the directors, playwrights, and design crews that made this show possible!

Lilian Ruggieri / Nora

Lilian Ruggieri (she/her) is a senior Theater major at Union College. She has acted in many shows at Union before, such as Sor Juana in *FLORIDITA: my Love*, Jessie in *Sweat*, Everybody in *Everybody*, and Peter Quince in a *Midsummer Night's Dream*. She is very excited to be a part of this show and as of writing this has no idea what show or role she will be cast as. She hopes you all enjoy the show!

FACING 'ISMS' TOWARDS A SHARED SKY

Melanie Del La Cruz / Haniya

Melanie 'Mel' De La Cruz (She/Her) is a first generation, third-year student from Tampa, Florida. She is a Theatre and Political Science double major with minors in Dance and a Seward Scholar Organizing Theme Project in efforts of creating our finding more accessible spaces for students and art. She has a heart to pursue the arts and the humanities, and is incredibly grateful of her time at Union so far. Credentials include: Helena (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Lydia (*Pride and Prejudice*), Floridita (*FLORIDITA: my Love*), Assistant Director and Student Dramaturg (*Sweat*), Dancer (Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023), Student Dancer (Eisenhower Dance Detroit at The Egg), Dancer (Union College Dance program). She thanks everybody in her life for bringing her thus far, with a special thanks to her parents, family, mentors and friends back home for motivating her to pursue her passions. Another special thanks to her mentors from Union. Love to the cast, crew and you all. I hope you enjoy the show! Besitos! Romans 13:10 NIV

Ava Duboff / Wanda

Ava Duboff (She/Her) is a junior Environmental Science major with minors in both Classics and Dance. Ava has been passionate about the arts all her life, especially dance. She enjoyed performing in last year's Winter Dance Concert, and is excited to be a part of 7 Plays/7 Days, as it is her first production with the Union College Theater department. Ava grew up in Saratoga Springs, NY and just recently transferred to Union College last fall. In her spare time Ava enjoys walks with her dog, Lois, and spending time with her family. She would like to thank her family, friends, loved ones, and her mentors both at Union College and outside. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Victoria Sargent / Amy Good

Victoria Sargent (They/Them) is a sophomore Biomedical Engineering major and Spanish minor. This is the second show they have participated in; the first was *You on the Moors Now* as River Sister. When they aren't selling their soul to the theater department you can find them leasing it to ResEd in return for snacks and the Ultimate Frisbee team in return for being hit in the face with a frisbee.

Beatriz Silva de Almeida / Dr. Zanmi

Beatriz Silva de Almeida (She/Her) is a Theater major and Dance minor at Union College, currently working on her first project there. Before this, she participated in a variety of performances in Brazil and Portugal focusing on physical theater, theater masks and the lucid body technique. Her notable roles include performances in *Como Irritar uma Pessoa*, *Tá Inverno no Inferno*, and *This is Not Macbeth*. She also acted in productions like *O Dia Meteorologicamente*, *Depois*, *Apartamento 69* and *Não Há Beleza*. Behind the scenes, Beatriz contributed as an assistant director and lighting/sound technician for several shows. Additionally, she helped found the Utopia Theater Company in Portugal, where she served as both an actress and executive producer, further enriching her theatrical journey.

Emily Tobar / Dia Tamari

Emily Tobar (She/Her) is a first-generation second-year student from Houston, Texas. She is a Political Science/Spanish and Hispanic Studies ID major. She's also minoring in dance! She has performed in Fall U, The Winter Dance Concert, and Steinmetz for various dance pieces. Interestingly, this is her first acting role and she's very excited. When she's not off in the studio dancing, you can find her watching different shows and hanging out with friends.

MOONWALKER

Aaron Armstrong / Anisha

Aaron Armstrong (They/Them) is thrilled to be performing in their very first show at Union! Aaron is a first-year, undecided major from Minneapolis, Minnesota. In high school theater, their favorite roles include Martha Dobie in *The Children's Hour*, Hector McQueen in *Murder on the Orient Express*, and Martin Vanderhof in *You Can't Take It with You*. Aaron would like to thank everyone who has put in effort to make this show come together and to thank you for coming out to see it! Enjoy the show!

Christian Thompson / Insomnia

Christian Thompson (They/Them) is a sophomore at Union College from Kauai, Hawaii. They are a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Physics. At Union, they spent their last year working as a workstudy student in the costume shop of the Theater department. *7 Plays / 7 Days* will be their first acting production at Union. Prior to Union, they were an ensemble member in *Moana Jr.* and *Heathers*. They also appeared in a Dracula radio show as Van Helsing. Outside of acting, Christian enjoys baking, hiking, origami, and board games. They thank everyone for supporting the Arts and hopes everyone has a wonderful time watching the show.

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING AWAY

Camilo Bitar Racedo / Blood

Camilo Bitar Racedo (He/Him) is a first-year Theater major from Queens, New York. In Theater, some of his favorite roles that he has performed have been as Romeo from *Romeo & Juliet*, Macbeth from *Macbeth*, Nick Bottom from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jack from *Into The Woods*, and Sonny from *In The Heights*. He loves music and hanging out with friends during his free time. He thanks everyone for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!

Lily Cunningham / Iron

Lily Cunningham (She/Her) is very excited to be taking part in her first production at Union. She is a Biomedical Engineering major with a Theater minor from Annapolis, MD. She has enjoyed doing theater during high school, and is greatly looking forwards to continuing in at Union.

Fay Janssen / Carbon

Fay Janssen (She/Her) is a freshman English major from NYC. She's new to theater, but super excited to participate in the show! She enjoys reading, writing, and drawing as well as acting, and if you're personally acquainted with any cats, you should tell her so she can find and pet them. She's glad you're here, and hopes that you'll enjoy the show!

Emma Kennedy / Control

Emma Kennedy (She/Her) is a senior Classics major and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies minor from Albany, NY. This is her first time acting at Union and she is very excited to be here. Emma likes to make art and hang out with her friends. Emma would like to thank her friends for helping her get back into acting, and everyone in theater for making this such a welcoming experience. Enjoy the show!

Vic Lucontoni / Bones

Vic Lucontoni (She/Her) is thrilled to be performing in this very unique performance at Union! Vic is a junior Theater major and has portrayed other roles like Oberon (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Death (*FLORIDITA: My Love*) and Amalia Balash (*She Loves Me*). She would like to thank everyone who made this possible and hopes you enjoy these beautiful pieces.

Jennifer Mendez / Breath

Jennifer Mendez (She/They) is a first-generation college senior from Manhattan New York. At Union she is doing a Political Science and Latin American Caribbean Studies double major. She has been involved in the Latin American Dance Club since her first year, and the Jaiva Afro-beats since her sophomore year. She has also done Practicums in Flamenco here at Union, while being involved in other arts. Some of her favorite hobbies are dancing, existing with nature and drinking a lot of coffee. I hope you all enjoy the show, Abrazitos y mucho amor Jenn.

SALT, LIGHT, SPEAR

Maya Wines / Kira

Maya Wines (They/Them) is a Theater and Astronomy double major from Watertown, New York. They've previously played the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz* their senior year of high school. This is their first Union Production. They are a sophomore and they enjoy sewing and watching anime. They thank you for coming and hope you enjoy the show.

Spencer Newman / Cyan

Spencer Newman (They/Them) is a senior Theater major and History minor from Santa Monica, CA. Last term they were seen in *You on the Moors, Now* (Fitzwilliam Darcy) and *She Loves Me* (Arpad Laszlo). Spencer also sings... a lot. When others finally convince them to sit down Spencer can be found building Legos, learning even more random fun facts and cheering on the Dodgers. Thanks to Grace, for keeping me somewhat sane, and Brian for being Brian (and congratulations on your directorial debut!)

STAGE MANAGERS

Lili Wang / The Need For Human Touch

Lili Wang (She/Her) is a senior Theater and Visual Arts double major from China. At Union, Lili worked on *Chicago* (violin), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (AD), etc. Lili has worked off-stage as a director, playwright, and scenic designer in Chinese Shadow Play for five years and is now dedicated to modern theater. Lili is extremely excited to work on this production as stage manager and wishes the cast and crew the best of luck!

Phoebe Ferguson / One Day We'll be Two Old Ghosts

Phoebe Ferguson (She/Her) is a sophomore transfer student. She is a double major in Theater and Visual Arts with a passion for technical theater and design. Her previous experience in theater was being the production manager and stage manager for the theater club at her previous college, and she was an active member of the drama club in high school. Phoebe works as an assistant stage manager for Newport Contemporary Ballet in Rhode Island on school breaks. She is very grateful and excited to be an stage manager for her first production here at Union!

Regan Roitz / 'Facing 'Isms' Towards a Shared Sky

Regan Roitz (She/Her) is a first year Theater major from Bentonville, Arkansas. She is excited to be a stage manager for her first production at Union! In high school, she did props management, stage management, and assistant directing for several productions including *Black Comedy*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Fantasticks*. In her free time, Regan enjoys singing and playing with her dog. She thanks everyone for coming tonight and hopes they enjoy the show!

Grace Newcombe / That's Why I'm Going Away

Grace Newcombe (She/Her) is a Senior Math major and Dance minor from Westchester New York is so excited to be a part of the production team for this festival! This is one of her first times being behind the scenes of a Union College Production, and has loved the experience! She has performed in the Winter Dance Concert 2022, 2023, 2024. She will be choreographing and performing in Winter Dance Concert 2025: *The Spaces Between*. Other work includes *She Loves Me* (Choreographer), Lothridge Festival of Dance 2022, 2023 (Dancer), 2024 (Dancer and Choreographer), FallU 2023, 2024 (Dancer), 2025 (Co-Director, choreographer, dancer). When she's not in the studio or in rehearsal, she likes to crochet dragons. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Lexi Knowles / Salt, Light, Spear

Lexi Knowles (She/They) is a sophomore Mechanical Engineer and Theater double major from Pawling, NY. She has been working in the scene shop since coming to the college. At Union College, they have worked on multiple shows, doing several different jobs, including *FLORIDITA: my Love*, *Patriots Acts*, *The Winter Dance Concert 2024 - Borders and Boundaries*, and *You on the Moors Now*. She was honored to get to be one of the stage managers for this show and wants to thank their friends and family for the continuous support. Enjoy the show!

SPECIAL THANKS

Isabel Pacchiana for Poster Graphic Design Work

Robert Gertler for Assistance with Projections for
Facing 'Isms Towards a Shared Sky

**PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOGRAPHY, AND AUDIO
RECORDING ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING THIS
PRODUCTION.**

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We acknowledge that we live, work, and study at Union College on the traditional homelands of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and other tribes. What we call Schenectady is a Dutch version of a Mohawk word skahnéhtati, meaning 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and respect for the people who have stewarded the land both past and present.

COMING SOON FROM UNION THEATER & DANCE

Winter 2025

Winter Studio Series
February 13 - 16

Winter Dance Concert -- *The Spaces Between*
March 5 - 8

Spring 2025

Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play
May 28 - June 1

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