MORE PERFECT PLACES

CO-CREATED BY
SETH BOCKLEY, LIZ NOFZIGER, TANYA PALMER, AND ANGELA TILLGES
A DIGITAL EVENT
LIVE PERFORMANCE

The mission of the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is to advance the art, scholarship, and appreciation of theatre and dance and its place in society. We pursue this mission collectively and as individuals through theatrical productions, scholarship and publication, presentation of our work in national and international venues, formal instruction, and individual mentoring.

The Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre and is a member of the University/Resident Theatre Association and United States Institute for Theatre Technology.

LIVING IMPACT

IU Theatre & Dance wishes to acknowledge and honor the Miami, Delaware, Potawatomi, and Shawnee people, on whose ancestral homelands and resources Indiana University was built.

MORE PERFECT PLACES

written by Seth Bockley in collaboration with Liz Nofziger, Tanya Palmer, and Angela Tillges

WRITER/DIRECTOR Seth Bockley
DRAMATURG Tanya Palmer
VIDEO ARTIST Liz Nofziger
EDUCATION SPECIALIST Angela Tillges
STAGE MANAGER Valeriya Nedviga
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Onyea Cummings

The video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

A DIGITAL EVENT | NOVEMBER 20–21, 2020
Cast
(in order of appearance)

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Jaicey Bledsoe

NORA FRETAGEOT
Sarah Zola

CHARITY DYE
Samantha Rahn

ENSEMBLE MEMBER TWO
Tiana Williams

ENSEMBLE MEMBER ONE
Christopher Plonka

ENSEMBLE MEMBER THREE
Tallon Wynne

ENSEMBLE MEMBER FOUR
Jace Henderson

This production is performed with one ten minute intermission.

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Trish Hausmann

Digital Operations Manager
Reuben Lucas

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Chris Centinaro
Madison Colquette
Bobby Coyne
Gavin Wendell Holman Douglas
Trish Hausmann
Laura Judson
Macy Kloville
Marie Pipinich
Lexi Silva

Department Voice, Speech, and Dialogue Coach
Nancy Lipschultz

Production Technical Director
I. Christopher Berg

Department Props and Scenic Artist Supervisor
Dan Tracy

Scenic Studio Employees
Rachel Burke
Spencer Gjerde
Valeriya Nedviga
Marie Pipinich
Ben Ramos

Costume Studio Supervisor
Robbie Stanton

Production Cutter/Draper
Heather Milam

Department Cutter/Draper
Anne Sorenson

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Erin Barnett
Madi Bell
Dawnette Dryer
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Brittany Lee Staudacher
Eileen Thoma

Lighting Supervisor
Betsy Smith

Lead Electrician
Corey Gauden-Naitove

Electrics Studio Employees
Corey Gauden-Naitove
Lilly Howder
Jeremiah Kearns
Russell Long
Lee Anne Meeks

Department Sound Designer/Engineer
Andrew Hopson

The Production Manager is a member of the Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The Department Production Technical Director, and Costume Shop Supervisor are members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, 608 or 893.
Message from the chair

Welcome!

What a year! This is a brave new world for everyone, and the performing arts is truly feeling the impact. It is requiring our resilience, innovation, and patience to be sure.

With Broadway dark until the end of May 2021 and many theatre and dance companies closed, communities are feeling the impact of the loss of live performance and the gathering of audience communities to share in a performative event. But we are excited for the new world of theatre and dance emerging post pandemic. A world where theatre and dance work towards dismantling systemic racism and actively and continually acknowledges trauma and creates space for healing. A world with equitable and plentiful access to humane and sustainable resources and space for artists, makers, and audiences. A world that values integrity, empathy, and dignity unconditionally.

This year we bring you work via online streaming. Although it is not ideal, it does serve several critical parts of our academic mission. It provides time for engagement between students and faculty in discussing, rehearsing, and exploring our work. This provides opportunity for critical and creative thinking and problem solving. Our online season is also providing a platform to introduce our students, faculty, and our steadfast audience members a place to experience readings of new work or lesser known work. We are particularly grateful to have several guest artists working with us on our Amplified: A Series of Plays by Black Authors, Sounding Bodies, and Twelfth Night. Because we are online and to ensure the safety of everyone during the pandemic, we are utilizing more simplified design elements. Yet, it is important that all of our students experience a robust process and therefore you will see pre-show and post-show interviews, discussions, video features, and resources of the theoretical design processes including the realized projects created by our student technologists and makers.

We are also delighted to feature our season with no charge. However, producing any work and having guest artists on our season still requires financial and human resources. We are indebted to our dedicated Associate Producers this year and the continued support of our Theatre Circle members. We are also grateful for our digital operations team this year which is led by Assistant Professor Reuben Lucas. They’ve been an invaluable resource.

We thank you for your commitment to our theatre, your continued support of our students, faculty, and our mission. Furthermore, we are grateful for a year of hard work, not only in our continued production endeavors, but also our non-negotiable actions to address issues around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We miss our live audiences. We miss YOU! We look forward to coming together again in our magnificent theatres to experience live theatre and dance together again.

With Gratitude,
Professor Linda Pisano, Chair

Dramaturg's note

More Perfect Places is a collaboration between director/playwright Seth Bockley, video and installation artist Liz Nofziger, dramaturg and Indiana University theatre professor Tanya Palmer and designer and arts integration and education specialist Angela Tillges. The project is inspired by the history of New Harmony, Indiana, which in the 19th century was home to two utopian communities—one religious and conservative, the other progressive and secular. In the 20th century, New Harmony was shaped by visionaries who were driven to preserve and advance the principles of those historical communities through art, architecture, music, performance, and literature. Taking our cue from the large-scale, community-driven historical pageants that were a staple of New Harmony’s cultural life in the early to mid-20th century, our ultimate vision for More Perfect Places is to create a 21st century historical pageant for and about the utopian impulses that created New Harmony: an outdoor spectacular that will bring together professional artists with youth from across Southern Indiana to both reflect on the town’s history and to articulate a vision for a new, more perfect place for all of us.

We began the initial research phase of this project in the spring of 2020, with the support of the Platform Arts & Humanities research project, and through partnerships with the New Harmony Project, Historic New Harmony, and the Working Men’s Institute. Thanks to the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance, over the last two weeks we were able to gather together a group of talented student actors to work with us on the script-in-process. While our project is still in the early stages of development, this time has been invaluable for us to explore the world of the play, and we look forward to sharing our early discoveries with you.

As part of our presentation, we are excited to share some of our research towards production: early design ideas from our collaborators Liz Nofziger and Angela Tillges, and our educational and community engagement goals for what we envision as a community-wide pageant that we hope to produce in New Harmony in the summer of 2022. While this is a historical pageant, we are also deeply interested in looking toward the future. As a result, we want to engage in a conversation with youth from across Southern Indiana about their own ideas for how to make their communities “More Perfect Places.” Through the support of IU’s Center for Rural Engagement as well as Historic New Harmony, we have begun to make contact with K-12 schools in Southern Indiana, and have already started to interview students about their utopian visions. Our intention is to partner with schools and youth organizations to lead a curricular unit on the utopian history of New Harmony as well as students’ articulation of contemporary design and governance of place. The responses and ideas that students contribute will be used directly in the narrative and design of More Perfect Places, planned to take place at an outdoor site in New Harmony.

Tanya Palmer, Dramaturg
THIS PRODUCTION IS SPONSORED IN PART BY:

Partner Associate Producers

Jennifer and John Sejdinaj

Cast

JAICEY BLEDSOE
(Ensemble Member Five)
is a sophomore double-majoring in Cinema & Media Arts and Theatre & Drama. This is her first production with IU Theatre. For IPAC: High School Musical 2 Jr. (Sharpay Evans). For UTR Productions: Upon This Rock: The Passion Play (Martha, Servant girl, Ensemble). Other: Hope to Tell (Headmistress Kelly Fox). Film: Within the Mirror (Lucy) for Double Exposure 2020, Hidden Beneath (Lead, Co-Director, Screenwriter, Editor), The Glitch (Supporting, Producer). Jaicey is from Indianapolis, Indiana.

JACE HENDERSON
(Ensemble Member Four)
is a second-year undergrad student majoring in media advertising and minoring in studio art at Indiana University. Born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana, Jace has been involved in various small theater productions since he was young. This is Jace’s first official performance at Indiana University.

CHRISTOPHER PLONKA
(Ensemble Member One)
(he/him) is a third year M.F.A. Acting student. He has been seen on the IU Stage in Ascendant (Jojo), Hamlet (Player King/Gravedigger), By the Bog of Cats (Xavier Cassidy), Titus Andronicus (Bassianus), and Barbecue (James T). Chris has also been seen in the IUST production of Little Shop of Horrors (Orin Scrivello, et. al), JTB’s production of Cherry Docs (Mike), as well as numerous productions as actor and director in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Chris is from Swansea, Massachusetts.

SAMANTHA RAHN
(Charity Dye)
(she/her) is double-majoring in both Theatre and Marketing. For IU Theatre: By the Bog of Cats (Caroline Cassidy), Vinegar Tom (Woman), Three Sisters (Musician). For IU Summer Theatre: Little Women (Jo March). For University Players: Stage Kiss (Director). Independent Projects: Measure for Measure (Lucio). Other performance credits include: The Diary of Anne Frank (Anne Frank), To Kill a Mockingbird (Dill and Mrs. Dubose), Way to Heaven (Rebecca) at Burning Coal Theatre; Annie (Annie) at Temple Theatre; The Bad Seed (Rhoda), The Miracle Worker (Helen Keller), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Puck) at The Neuse Little Theatre. TV: Brake 4 Buses (PSA, Girl), Pathway to Success (PSA, Main Actor). Samantha is from Durham, North Carolina.
TIANA WILLIAMS
(Ensemble Member Two)
is an ambitious artist from Indianapolis, Indiana, and is a third-year in the B.F.A. Musical Theatre Program. She has been a solo vocalist in various local settings and her past productions include The Wiz (Dorothy), Legally Blonde (Pilar), In the Heights (Vanessa), Ragtime (Sarah), The Curious Savage (Lily Belle), Matilda (Ms. Phelps), Calder the Musical (A developing piece: Josephine Baker), Aida (Nehebka), and was most recently in University Player’s American Idiot (Extraordinary Girl) and IU Theatre’s Bonnets (Georgette). This year, Tiana is the Diversity Representative for IU Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance’s Student Advisory Board, and is a Social Programming Chair for IU’s NAACP Chapter.

SARAH ZOLA
(Nora Fretageot)
/she/her/ is a sophomore majoring in Theatre and Political Science. This is her first production here at IU. Outside of the Theatre department, she is a member of Hooshir Acapella and her sorority Sigma Delta Tau. Sarah is from Lexington, Massachusetts.

TALLON WYNNE
(Ensemble Member Three)
Making his IUT debut, Tallon is a third-year undergraduate studying Theatre & Drama at Indiana University with a Marketing minor from the Kelley School of Business. Recent productions include Malcolm (Macbeth) and Robin Goodfellow (A Midsummer Night’s Dream) with Braving the Bard, Vertumnus/Hades/Hunger (Metamorphoses) with University Players, and Porky (Revolts of the Beavers) with Theatre Off-Kilter. Tallon also assistant directed Mamma Mia and Les Miserables with the Guyer Opera House. Upcoming productions: Narrator/Manager/Jeff Bezos (Moonchild) with University Players.

Artistic team

SETH BOCKLEY
(Writer, Director)
is a playwright and theater director specializing in literary adaptation, design-driven production, and new play development. As a writer his works include Gilgamesh & Enkidu, Tabletop Tragedies, Floe, Farewell Fables, Charisma! with Minneapolis rock band Greycoats, Rip Van Winkle; or, Cut The Old Moon Into Stars, the first commission by Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival in Cold Spring NY, 2666 (adapted with Robert Falls from the novel by Roberto Bolano, Goodman Theater), Laika’s Coffin, Journey For The Sun, Wilderness, February House (with Gabriel Kahane, The Public Theater, NYC), Impossible Cities, and adaptations from stories by George Saunders: Jon and CommComm, plus the Cool Dads of America sketch from A Prairie Home Companion. Directing credits include immersive project Superfluxus: Gilgamesh & Enkidu; the multimedia documentary theater works Wilderness and Basetrack Live with En Garde Arts (Abrons Arts Center, NYC), 2666 (with Robert Falls, Goodman Theater). Laurent Yee’s Samsara and Philip Dawkins’ Failure: A Love Story (Victory Gardens, Chicago); Jason Grote’s Civilization (all you can eat) and 1001; the clown play Guerra, with Mexico City-based troupe La Piara (toured Mexico, Colombia, and U.S.). He teaches at the University of Chicago. www.sethbockley.com

ONYEA CUMMINGS
(Stage Manager)
/she/her/ is a sophomore Theatre & Drama student. For IU Independent Projects: The Hunchback of Notre Dame (Assistant Stage Manager). Outside of IU: Into the Woods for Summer Stock Stage (ASM). Onyea is from Indianapolis, Indiana.

VALENIYA NEDVIGA
(Stage Manager)
is a second-year M.F.A. student in Scenic Design. For IU theatre: Amplified (Scenic and Sound Designer), Bonnets (Video Production Specialist), Servant of Two Masters (Props Master), Big Fish (Props Master & Projection Operator), jelly beans (Scenic and Projections Designer). For Bloomington Playwrights Project: Lost Letters (Stage Manager). For OSU Opera and Lyric Theatre: Le Nozze di Figaro (Stage Manager & Props Master), Opera Americana (Scenic Designer), Candide (Props Master). For Opera Columbus: Madama Butterfly, Flood (Assistant Stage Manager). For Opera Project Columbus: Rigoletto (Stage Manager). La cenerentola (Assistant Director). For Weathervane Playhouse: In the Heights, Wizard of Oz (Sound Designer & Live Mix). Valeriya is from Togliatty, Russia.
LIZ NOFZIGER (Co-Creator, Video Artist)
is a site-specific installation artist whose work examines relationships to space within the physical, architectural, political, and pop-cultural landscape. Employing a broad range of media including video, sculpture, light, audio, found material and text, viewer investigation often completes her work. Nofziger received her M.F.A. from the Studio for Interrelated Media at Massachusetts College of Art in Boston, M.A. She currently teaches at Montserrat College of Art.

TANYA PALMER (Co-Creator, Dramaturg)
is an Associate Professor and Head of the M.F.A. Dramaturgy program at IU Bloomington. Prior to joining the faculty at IU, Tanya served as the Producer and Director of New Play Development at Chicago’s Goodman Theatre and led the theatre’s new play programs for 14 seasons. From 2000-2005 she was the Director of New Play Development at Actors Theatre of Louisville, where she led the reading and selection process for the Humana Festival of New American Plays. Originally from Calgary, Canada, she holds an M.F.A. in Playwriting from York University in Toronto.

ANGELA TILLGES (Co-Creator, Education Specialist)
is a civic project manager, artist and educator who is skilled at working with public institutions and community organizations on projects of social, artistic, ecological and educational importance. She leads projects that provide people the opportunity to make personal and lasting connections with public and open spaces in their communities. Currently the Great River Passage Fellow for the City of St. Paul, Tillges was also the Senior Program Specialist for Chicago City Parks and Recreation, and spent 9 years as the Associate Artistic Director of Chicago’s Redmoon Theatre, a performance company that created free public spectacles providing opportunities for public engagement, community building, and recognition of the possibility for change. She has an M.Ed. from Harvard University with a focus in Arts and Education.

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emailed information about all performances; glimpses behind the scenes; exclusive talks by directors, designers, and theatre scholars; special event invitations; theatre-related travel opportunities; reserved seating at numerous performances and events; and much more.

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Richard and Terry McCall
Laura K. McClellan
Marvin D. Moody, Ph.D.
Lawrence Myers, Jr.
Cyndi and Dale Nelson
Christina D. Ondrik
Robert R. Ormiston
Rhoda and C.K. Peters
Linda Pisano
Phil and Joyce Probst
David L. Rinear
Corey Rosenberg
Curtis and Judith Sirnic
Lynne Perkins Socey and Matthew Socey
Diane J. Spoffard
Janice and Walter Stewart
R. Brent Wagner
June E. Weiland
Doris F. Wittenburg and Harlan L. Lewis
Donna and Richard Wolf

* Denotes donors who have passed away, but whose gift continues to benefit the department and its students.

There's still time to register for your free ticket!

Details and reservations at theatre.indiana.edu
Special thanks to our season associate producers

The contributions of associate producers directly fund an IU Theatre production of the donor’s choice. As an associate producer, you will help directly support the cost of a production’s costume, scenic, lighting, sound, and projection design. Your name will be featured in our programs and all curtain speeches. You will also enjoy benefits as year-round members of Theatre Circle, an organization founded to promote and encourage the study and practice of theatre arts in the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance and an awareness of theatre throughout the community.

For more information, please pick up a Theatre Circle brochure in the lobby or contact Laura Judson at ljudson@iu.edu or by phone at 812-855-7699; or visit the Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance website at theatre.indiana.edu and select the Theatre Circle link.

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Diana and Rodger Alexander
Harlan Lewis and Doris Wittenburg

2020–21 Season Partner Level Associate Producers

Ruth Albright
Anne and Jim Bright
Carolyn and Dave Emmert
Phil Evans and Herbert O. Kuebler
Jo Ellen and Steve Ham
Harlan Lewis and Doris Wittenburg
Cyndi and Dale Nelson
Jennifer and John Sejdinaj
Judy Shettlereoe
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PRODUCTION 4

TWELFTH NIGHT

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2020–21 SEASON
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