The Life of Galileo

By Bertolt Brecht
Translated by David Hare
CFA - Jewel Theatre

October 5 - 7:30 P.M.
October 6 - 8:30 P.M.
October 7 - 1:30 P.M. & 7:30 P.M.

Free with Luther ID - tickets.luther.edu
Regular Admission $10

"The Life of Galileo" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRECH, INC.
Cast (In order of appearance)

Erik Mueterthies                      Galileo Galilei
                                        Fontier Gaurd 1
Nathan Sunde                            Andrea Sarti (as a boy and older)
                                        First Clerk
Melissa Kirby                         Signora Sarti
                                        The Cardinal Inquisitor
Morgan Fanning                        The Chancellor(Signor Priuli)
                                        Philosopher
                                        Very Old Cardinal
                                        Society Dancer
                                        A Man
Andrew Tiede                          Ludovico Marsili
                                        Cosimo de Medici(as a boy and older)
                                        Clavius (The Astronomer)
                                        Pope’s Servant
Andrew Kane                            Sagredo (Galileo’s Friend)
                                        The Little Monk(Fulganzio)
                                        Society Dancer
Violet Abigail Rae Hatfield           Senator #1
                                        Second Monk
                                        Society Dancer
                                        Carnival Barker
Grant Holsinger                       Senator #2
                                        Cardinal Bellarmin
                                        Carnival Book Seller
                                        Vanni
Natalie Jane Nelson                   Senator #3
                                        Mathematician
                                        First Monk
                                        Society Dancer
                                        The Official at Cosimo’s Court
                                        Town Crier
                                        Pope’s Servant
                                        An Italian Peasant
Samson Masanga                       Senator #4
                                        Cosimo’s Chamberlain
                                        Guard in Rome
                                        Second Clerk
                                        The Rector at Cosimo’s Court
                                        A Monk
                                        Frontier Guard 2
Jaque Simays                         Federzoni (The Lens Grinder)
                                        Astronomer
                                        Cardinal Barberini (Later Pope Urban VIII)
Emma Brashear                         Virigina (Galileo’s Daughter; as a girl and older)
Order of Scenes
Scene 1: The New Age
Scene 2: Presenting the Telescope
Scene 3: Copernicus Confirmed
Scene 4: The University Debate
Scene 5: Clavius’ Judgement
Scene 6: The Ball in Rome
Scene 7: The Little Monk

Preformance Will Take 15 Minute Intermission
Scene 8: Galileo Resumes His Research
Scene 9: The Carnival
Scene 10: Galileo’s Arrest
Scene 11: The Dressing of the Pope
Scene 12: Recantation
Scene 13: The Prisoner
Scene 14: The Word Goes Out

The Life of Galileo

Galileo Galilei was born 16 February 1564 to a musician of noble standing, Vincezo Galilei, and his overbearing wife Giulia Ammannati. He attended a monastery school in Vallombrosa, and after passing all entrance exams while still four years too young and having to wait the allotted years, he was finally able to enroll at the University of Pisa. There he was unable to procure a thoroughly stimulating area of study and left without a degree in 1858. Galileo tried his hand at music and poetry – to very little acclaim – and returned to the University of Pisa to be a professor of math; a study, at this time, thought to be too abstract to be useful by most of the academia elite. Throughout this time, and indeed throughout his entire life, Galileo fought off bouts of depression.

Galileo left Pisa for the University of Padua in 1592 “for what he later rated as the best eighteen years
of his life.”[1] During his time in Venice, Galileo lived off of the slim means of the university and the patents to several mechanical inventions of his own, such as a horse-driven irrigation pump[2] and a measuring compass, often weaving his way in and out of debt. He had three children with his housekeeper, Mariana Gamba: Virginia, Livia, and Vincenzio[3]. His daughter, Virginia, alone of the three, “mirrored his own brilliance, industry, and sensibility, and by virtue of these qualities became his confidante.”[4]  

While working at Padua, Galileo was able to teach and study astronomy and the mathematics of motion; and began correspondences with such scientific minds as Johannes Kepler and Tycho Brahe and took up many debates on the probability of the Copernican model, and the possible mathematical miscalculations of Aristotle.[5] By chance, Cardinal Maffeo Barberini saw Galileo in a public debate about the nature of floating bodies, or why ice floats, and was so taken with his reasoning that he later wrote in a letter to Galileo, “I pray the Lord God to preserve you, because men of great value like you deserve to live a long time to the benefit of the public.”[6]  

In May 1590, Cosimo II was born, and as a young man, he studied with Galileo as his math tutor and the two became friends, of sorts. By June 1609, rumors of a Dutch gadget used for image enlargement began circulating. Galileo believed the rumors to be grossly exaggerated, yet by the end of August, with the support of a close colleague, Galileo had in his hands a spyglass three times the strength of the Dutch instrument.[7] He sold the invention as his own to the state of Italy. By December of that same year, Galileo turned his
What intrigued Galileo most about the moon were the dark spots, which under magnification began to look like crevasses and mountains; he analyzed their shadows and realized that the shadows moved over them, just as they did an earthly canyon under the sun. He hypothesized that mathematically that the shadows could not appear as they did, if both the sun and the moon drifted around the earth and claimed that the moon reflected the light of the sun, rather than creating its own soft luminescence for the night. Galileo had discovered mountains on the moon. He wrote of them in his published work, "I will support these conclusions by countless arguments taken from natural phenomena."[8]

Galileo and other scientists began making grand leaps in the field of astronomy. In 1610, Galileo, a former student of Clavius and Kepler, discovered the phases of Venus as it sailed around the sun, “neither of these facts [were] compatible with the classical cosmology ... of Aristotle” and the church.[9]

Galileo discovered three bright stars around Jupiter, organized in a straight line, two to the east of Jupiter, and one to the west. Retuning to this sight a few days later, the bright stars formed a different pattern: they all stood in a parallel line to the west of the planet. A fourth star appeared, together they were named for Cosimo II, the Medician stars. Galileo watched in fascination as these bright heavenly bodies, which he now understood to be moons, circled Jupiter. He wrote in euphoria, “we now have a notable and splendid argument to remove the scruple... of those who ... think that [the Copernican] constitution of the universe must be rejected as impossible.”[10] But acceptance of scientific proof did not prove itself
to be as easy as the discovery. Apart from scientists, there was no real investment in the cosmos save from the powerful institution of the Catholic Church, to whom it was a great concern that the earth sits under a heavenly canopy “like a tent to live in” as described in Isaiah 4:22.[11]

In the years immediately following his discoveries, Galileo traveled to Rome and presented his work to the Medici court and the Roman College. There he met Maffeo Barberini, and “began a friendship that would end in an enmity of world-historical importance.”[12]

At this time in Galileo’s life, his health began to fail him. Let it be said here if ever, illegitimate daughters were hard to marry off. Thus, in 1613 a year after their mother’s death, Galileo shipped both of his young daughters to a nunnery outside of Florence. They were just ten and eleven respectively. Virginia, who had a knack for the sacrament, took her vows when she turned sixteen. Although Galileo once wrote of women, that they “have excelled in every art,” he took no pains to educate his daughters.[13]

In the convent both girls suffered from malnutrition, disease, and perpetual cold.

The Duke of Tuscany, Cosimo III, for whom Jupiter’s moons had been named, died in 1621. In the summer of 1623, Pope Gregory XV also died and was succeeded by Cardinal Barberini, who became Pope Urban VIII. At first, Pope Urban VIII treated Galileo as he did many of his other friends, showering him with trinkets, baubles, and a secure position for his son. At this time the papacy had neither confirmed the Copernican model, or condemned it as heretical.[14]

The new Pope’s mood swings kept everyone in his court on their toes;
meanwhile Galileo busied himself with an untested theory that the sloshing of the earth’s tides were caused by its spin.

In 1630, Galileo met with Pope Urban and discussed the prospect of a published work on the Copernican system in comparison with the geocentric system that the church promoted, to which Urban emphasized, Galileo should be sure not to “get carried away.”[15] Galileo did not exactly follow his instructions, nor did he set mathematics and God’s omnipotence on an equal level in his book, but favored the Copernican model above all. When Dialogue was published Urban felt he had been personally misused and ridiculed.

Yet, a trial without a confession would be difficult for the church. Galileo entered a plea bargain within which he pleaded guilty of wrongdoings against the papacy, but innocent of heresy. After several months of papal negotiations, and a short trial Galileo was condemned to “villa arrest” for life in 1633.[16] In his trial, he read a statement, “I do not hold the Copernican opinion and have not held it after being ordered by injunction to abandon it.”[17] Galileo swore in front of the inquisition that he would not write again about a moving earth, or a stationary sun.

Throughout the last years of his life, Galileo suffered from blinding cataracts, constant pain from a hernia, and insomnia. It was said of him at this time that he looked “more like a cadaver than a living person.”[18] On the evening of January 8th, 1642, Galileo died, in the presence of his students and son.

Production Team

**Director**
Jeff Dintaman

**Music Director & Soloist**
Mitchell Gage

**Keyboardist**
John Kuntz

**Scenic & Lighting Designer**
Jeff Dintaman

**Costume Designer**
Lisa Lantz

**Technical Director**
Tom Berger

**Composer**
Pablo Gomez-Estevez

**Dramaturg**
Anna Becker

**Stage Manager**
Annika Peterson

**Assistant Directors**
Erik Muetherhies & Emma Brashear

**Production Manager**
Laila Sahir

**Marketing and Publicity Coordinator**
Morgan Fanning

**Graphic Designer**
Patrick Finnegan

**Web Content Liaison**
Grace Huber

**House Manager**
Jonathan Kuehner

**Tech Crew**

**Sound Board Operator:**
Cleo Garza

**Stage Crew:**
Madi Brauer

**Wardrobe:**
Claire Twedt

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Set Construction Crew

Nathan Baldwin
Collin Boyle
Jorge Chavez
Gunnar Ehlers
Meghan Gaffney
Cleo Garza
Winter Hawley-Bourcier
Tanner Huppert
Isabella Jenkinson
Johnathan Kuehner
Isaac Logeman
Noah Manke
Abby Mark
William Marroquin-Haslett
Samson Masanga
Karl Nycklemoe
Jenna Reimann
Emma Schlabach
Barbara Stier
Andrew Tiede

Costume Crew

Liz Bolthouse
Linnea Lee-Brown
Emma Brashear
Mikaela Hanrahan
Emmalee Kmoch
Genevieve Heimer-Lang
Annika Peterson
Sophia Nystrom
Roselie Munroe

Miranda Poncelet (Costume Storage Coordinator)

Special Thanks

Luther College Safety and Security
Chloe Beck
Liam Fraser
Gracie Griffiths
Dr. Brooke Joyce
John Kuntz
Andrew Murray
Brittany Todd
Michael Winkler
Emma Brashear
is a senior theatre major with a math minor. She has previously been seen in *1776* at St. Croix Festival Theatre, as well as numerous productions at Luther. She is also a member of Top Banana Improv Troupe. Emma loves her theatre family and can’t believe she is already a senior!

Morgan Fanning
is a sophomore music and theatre double major. She sings in Cathedral Choir and plays viola in Symphony Orchestra. Last year she had the great experience of assistant stage managing and playing music for *The Nether*. She would like to thank her amazing friends and family for the endless support, care, and motivation they provide her.

Violet Abigail Rae Hatfield
is a senior English major who has done bits of acting here and there but has never truly been in a play before, so she’s ecstatic to finally be in one. She would like to thank all of her wonderful friends and family members who are coming to see her début as an actress proper, as well as all the teachers who helped guide her on this path in the first place. In addition to acting, she has many interests, including creative writing, dancing, reading, and enjoying the company of cats.

Grant Holsinger
is super excited to be a part of *The Life of Galileo*, his first production with the VPA. He is a fifth year senior majoring in music with an emphasis in vocal performance. Previously at Luther, he was involved in operatic productions of Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, Franz Lehar’s *The Merry Widow* and Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Gondoliers*. He would like to thank all of his friends, family and faculty that have guided and supported him in his time at Luther.

Andrew Kane
is a junior majoring in religion and minoring in theatre. His previous productions at Luther are *Love and Information* and *The Nether*. Andrew would like to dedicate his performance to his greatest teacher of all time, his mom.
Melissa Kirby
is a junior theatre major from Troy, Missouri. *The Life of Galileo* is her second VPA show, the first being *The Nether*. She is also the President of the Performing Arts Committee, which has helped her make new connections with people from the community and around the world. She would like to say thank you to everyone who has helped her memorize lines and supported her overall in her endeavors!

Samson Masanga
is a sophomore majoring in computer science and minoring in theatre. This is his second involvement in a production at Luther and he has enjoyed the experience. Having previously worked as a stage manager, he is appearing in his first play as an actor.

Erik Mueterthies
is a senior theatre major. He has previously appeared in *The Nether*, *The Illusion*, and *Sunday in the Park with George*. Erik would like to thank the cast for expertly bringing Brecht’s work to life with their hard work and countless talents. He would also like to thank his parents, Dave and Cindy, for their endless support and love throughout his life and academic journey; and his sister, Gina, for being a constant source of inspiration through her shining disposition and positive impact on those around her.

Natalie Jane Nelson
is a vocal music and English major in her junior year at Luther. This is her first time acting in a VPA production, but she has enjoyed working tech for previous shows such as *Twelfth Night* and *Becky Shaw*. Natalie has loved working with such wonderful people on this production and she hopes that your enjoyment of the show is *ahem* astronomical.

Jaque Simays
is overjoyed that you came to see her first-ever production! She is a senior psychology major from Slinger, WI. Besides being involved in *The Life of Galileo*, Jaque is on the executive board for Varsity Band, President of Cantorei, and Pledge Trainer for Chi Theta Rho. She would like to thank her mom, dad, and two brothers for supporting and loving her through it all!
Nathan Sunde
is a freshman double majoring in biology and theatre with a minor in chemistry. Other groups you may find Nathan in include Drama Team for Focus, the Forensics Team, Health Sciences, Norsemen, Chemistry Club, and LGBT.

Andrew Tiede
is a junior theatre major and writing minor. He has previously appeared in: The Illusion, SPIN Theatre’s Haunted House, Twelfth Night, and a variety of class projects. He would like to thank his parents for paving his way to college and supporting him in his decisions.

Annika Peterson
is a junior majoring in psychology and theatre with a minor in Spanish. She is on the SPIN Theatre executive board, is a member of Top Banana Improv Troupe, and she sings in Collegiate Chorale. This is Annika’s first time stage managing a show! She is very excited to have this experience.

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Pablo Gómez-Estévez
is a vibrant student composer from the Dominican Republic. His compositions have been performed at Luther College, Berklee College of Music, Boston Conservatory, and in the Dominican Republic. In 2016, he received the Presser Scholar Award, an award that celebrates his dedication to excellence both as musician and scholar. Pablo is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Mitchell Gage
is a junior double majoring in music and performing arts management with a minor in French. He has been part of past productions both in the theatre and music departments including Sunday in the Park with George, The Gondoliers, and various scenes programs. This summer Mitchell sang with Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre in their production of Speed Dating Tonight! by Michael Ching. Mitchell would like to thank Jeff, Pablo, and the cast for their ability to collaborate on such an interesting work.
Luther Theatre and Dance
2017-2018

The Life of Galileo
By Bertolt Brecht
October 5-7, 2017

Rent
By Jonathan Larson
November 10-19, 2017

Soil Turning
Choreographed by Andrea Vazquez-Aguirre
May 3-12, 2017

Marie Antoinette
By David Adjmi
May 4-12, 2017

Faculty and Staff

Tom Berger
Lisa Lantz
Jeff Dintaman
Jane Hawley
Andre Vazquez-Aguirre
Paul Rude
Dr. Bobby Vrtis