METAMORPHOSES

Written by Mary Zimmerman
May 1 @ 7:30 p.m.
May 2 @ 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.
May 7 @ 7:30 p.m.
May 8 @ 9:30 p.m.
May 9 @ 1:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Directed by Dr. Bobby Vrtis
Center for the Arts
Jewel Theatre
Ticket Office:
Center for Faith and Life
Luther College
700 College Drive
563.387.1357
tickets.luther.edu
SCENES

Scene 1: COSMOGONY
Woman, Scientist, Zeus. Two Laundresses

Scene 2: MIDAS
1st, 2nd, 3rd Laundresses, Midas, Midas’ Daughter, Servant, Silenus, Bacchus

Scene 3: ALCYONE & CEYX
2nd Laundress, Alcyone, Ceyx, Sailors, Poseiden, Henchmen, Aphrodite, Iris, 2nd Narrator, Lucina

Scene 4: ERYMITHON
Narrator 3, Erysichthon, Ceres, Spirit of the Tree, Oread, Hunger, Mother, The Buyer

Scene 5: ORPHEUS & EURYDICE

Scene 6: POMONA & VERTUMNUS
Narcissus, 2 performers, Narrator 3, Pomona, Vertumnus

Scene 7: MYRRHA
Vertumnus, Pomona, Aphrodite, Narrator 3, Myrrha, Cinyras, Nursemaid

Scene 8: PHAETON
Phaeton, Therapist, Apollo

Scene 9: EROS & PSYCHE
Q, A, Eros, Psyche

Scene 10: BAUCIS & PHILEMON
Narrator, Zeus, Hermes, Offstage Voice, Woman at the Door, Baucis, Philemon, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Narrator 4, Narrator 5, Company

There will be no intermission during the performance.

Mature audiences only. The play contains sexual situations and violence which some viewers may find disturbing.

MUSIC

“Familiar Ground” by The Cinematic Orchestra, feat. Fontella Bass
“T’ll Fly Away” by the Kossoy Sisters
“Ne Me Quitte Pas” by Jacques Brel
“The Flower Duet” from Lakme by Leo Delibes
“Idiotique” by Radiohead

“Dream in My Head” by Yael Naim
“Touch” by Daughter
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Alcyone and others: Gillian Constable '17
Ceyx and others: Erik Mueterthies '18
Orpheus and others: Jennifer Schmidt '15
Eurydice and others: Madeline Geier '17
Isis and others: Emma Brashear '18
Myrrha and others: Maggie Sulentic '16
Phaetons and others: Josh Harper '16
Aphrodite and others: Eva Gemlo '17
Cinyras and others: Tim Komatsu '15
Oread and others: Lili Zenobian '18
Baucis and others: Emily Garst '16
Baucucus and others: Josh Weisenberger '17
Silenus and others: Skye Newcom '17
Erysichthon and others: Michael Ehrecke '15
Therapist and others: Emma Withers '18
Musician: Christie Owens '16
Musician: Inga Aleckson '17
Understudy: Elaena Hoekstra '17
Understudy: Ryan Pierce '17

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Dr. Bobby Vrtis
Lighting Design: Jeff Dintaman
Scenic Design: Tom Berger
Costume Design: Grace Trimble '08
Puppet Design/Construction: Abbey Syne '16
Music Composition: Christie Owens '16 & Inga Aleckson '17
Dramaturg: Stephen Ster '16
Stage Manager: Lis Athas '15
Assistant Stage Managers: Abbey Syne '16 and Miriam Harries '16
Lighting Assistance: Aaron Busch '15, Josh Weisenberger '17, Matt Guttormson '17
Tech Crew: Ehren Kluge '16, Shannon Moser '16, Ellen Vokes '16, Jade Nustvold '16, Laura Martin '16, Marley Crossland '15
Wardrobe Run Crew: Becca Chapin '15
Props Master: Abbey Syne '16
House Manager: Sarah Brandt '15, Kajsa Jones '15
Poster & Graphic Design: Kristen Anderson '15
Program Design & Headshots: Sarah Brandt '15
Publicity: Sarah Brandt '15, Kajsa Jones '16
Web Content: Lis Athas '15, Elaena Hoekstra '17
SET CONSTRUCTION

Collin Boyle '18  Timothy Komatsu '15  Rachel Skinner '15
Jessica Dobson '15  Dakota Lancour '15  Stephen Ster '17
Meghan Gaffney '18  Shannon Moser '17  Barbara Ster '18
Samuel Gathje '15  Chelsey O'Connor '15  Maggie Sulentic '16
Taylor Graydon '15  Christie Owens '16  Josh Weisenburger '17
Mimi Harries '16  Jake Putnam '15  Jessie Hodgeson
Ehren Kluge '16  Rebecca Rye '17

COSTUME CONSTRUCTION

Dakota Lancour '15  Hailee Feig '16  Pedro De Costa Cadalak '16
Alice McNamara '17  Paige Harne '15  Becca Chapin '15
Natalia Ophaug '15  Abbey Syme '16  Hayley Ryan '15
Jessica O'Brien '15  Megan Olson '18
Clara Miller '15  Nathaniel Koch '17

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank to Verizon Wireless in Decorah for supplying phones to our production.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As our production of Metamorphoses began to coalesce, I’ve tried to step back and consider what we were attempting in the first place. Reading over some of my research I came across David R. Slavitt’s introductory note to his free translation of Ovid’s epic poem. Reading it, things shifted into place a bit more for me.

In his preface to Metamorphoses, Slavitt writes that his translation has been an attempt to convey his experience of Ovid’s work as much as any attempt at conveying some guess at the poet’s original intent – that reading is necessarily a kind of translation in the mind of the reader who brings a personal set of associations and history to the reading that an author could not possibly anticipate. He could not read it without letting his subjective experience shape the reading, let alone render that reading in a new language. His translation, then, is both an attempt to carry the meaning of Ovid’s words from one language to another and an account of his particular reading.

A transformation.
A changing from one language into another.
A transformation necessarily inflected by the agent of change.

Translate – which carries among its definitions transform – is an apt verb for theatre. Actors take on a kind of transformation from actor into character, one that is inevitably inflected by their own experiences, ideas, and associations. What’s more, a production is necessarily a collaborative translation of a play. This translation is shaped by our discoveries, interpretations, biases, and ideas.

We attempt to interpret some core meaning, and carry that meaning through ourselves, expressing a new form to an audience. The audience, too, then freely translates that experience in ways we cannot fully predict.

The myths presented in Metamorphoses are not stable entities. They change shape to speak to new generations, new storytellers, and new listeners.
Their meanings, often ambiguous, take shape in the act of our translation of them. They take shape through our experience of them, changing form with every new listening. We have tried to express our experiences of these myths through multiple forms, reshaping them in the telling.

Now they are yours to translate.

MEET THE CAST

INGA ALECKSON is currently a sophomore studying Intermedial Arts. She is an active member of Vocal Jazz here at Luther College. Inga would like to extend a huge thank you to her mom and dad for their support!

EMMA BRASHEAR is excited to be on stage for the first time at Luther College! She was previously involved in the tech crew for In the Next Room and Body of Water. A first year student. Emma is pursuing a double major in Physics and Theatre. She would like to thank Dr Bobby for being a wonderful director and theatre teacher.

GILLIAN CONSTABLE is in her sophomore year, gaining a degree in Theatre. She has been seen on the mainstage here at Luther as Neza in La Dispute and as the Female Understudy for In the Next Room. She has also been involved in the student-run theatre company, SPiN, as Kafka in Words, Words, Words. She most recently portrayed Nell in a senior project production of Endgame. Outside of theatre, Gillian is a member of Cathedral Choir and Beautiful Mess, and serves as an Olson RA. She would like to thank the cast and crew for supporting and depending on each other.

MICHAEL EHRECKE is in his senior year, pursuing a Theatre degree. He has had the great joy of performing in many productions on the Luther College stage, including On the Verge and Cabaret. This year, he has appeared in Body of Water and A Thread in the Dark, and most recently performed in the student-led production of The Christians. Michael has served as both an RA and Orientation Assistant, and continues to be a part of Launching Luther Leaders. He extends his deepest gratitude to Dr. Bobby for granting him the opportunity to be a part of such a spectacular show. He would also like to thank his family and friends for supporting him in all his endeavors, artistic and otherwise. Most of all, he would like to thank the vibrant and vivacious beings that comprise this incredible cast. Michael is humbled and honored to share the stage with such inspiring and insightful artists. THANK YOU!
EMILY GARST transferred to Luther College as a junior in the fall of 2014. Her previous theatrical ventures while at Iowa Central Community College included portraying Christ in Rumors, Margot in The Musical, Courtney in John Lennon & Me, and Lorraine in All Shook Up. Emily would like to thank her amazing castmates for their endless support and talent. She would also like to extend eternal gratitude to all the brilliant directors, designers, and crew members who painstakingly made this stunning show possible.

MADELINE GEIER is currently a sophomore pursuing a major Theatre, with a minor in Writing. She has been involved in previous Luther College productions including In the Next Room as Assistant Stage Manager, A Thread in the Dark as Ensemble/Puppeteer, and as Bryla in La Dispute. Madeline is also a member of Student Philanthropy Council, Phonathon, serves as a Brandt RA, and as a Writing Center tutor. She would like to thank the tremendously talented cast and production team for a wonderful experience, to wonderful friends for laughter and support, and to the Brandt squad for tolerating my crazy schedule.

EVA GEMLO is currently a in her sophomore year, pursuing a Theatre major and Management minor. She was last seen onstage as Mrs. Daldry in In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play), and also as an Ensemble/Puppeteer in A Thread in the Dark, Lehne in La Dispute, and Fritz in Cabaret. Eva is an enthusiastic member of Cathedral Choir, and enjoys making educational mental health videos for her work position in Counseling Services. Thank you to this cast for being the most presidential group I’ve worked with, thank you to Elaena Hoekstra for her collaboration and work ethic (I strive to be as dedicated as you are!), and thank you to Tom Berger and the scene shop squad for their hard work and ingenuity.

JOSH HARPER is in his junior year and is gaining a Communication Studies major and a Theatre minor. He has previously portrayed Clow in Endgame, Michael in God of Carnage, Minos in A Thread in the Dark, Ezor in La Dispute, Captain Brice in Arcadia, and Dogberry in Much Ado About Nothing. Outside of mainstage productions, Josh is also involved in SPIN Theatre and Communication Studies Club. He would like to thank his family and friends for their support.

ELAENA HOEKSTRA is pursing a major in Theatre with a minor in Management, and is currently in her sophomore year. She has been involved in previous mainstage productions, including In the Next Room as Hair/Makeup/Dresser and Lighting Crew, La Dispute as Assistant Stage Manager, and in Cabaret portraying Fraulein Schneider. Elaena is actively involved in Cathedral Choir, SPIN Theatre Company, in addition to serving as Web Content Coordinator for the VPA Department. She would like to thank family and friends for their love and support, and Tom Berger and the scene shop workers for building this amazing set.

TIM KOMATSU is a senior Theatre and Political Science major. Past credits include roles in Secret in the Wings, Much Ado About Nothing, Arcadia, La Dispute, Lysistrata, In the Next Room, and God of Carnage. In addition to performing with the Theatre Department, he is involved with Undeclared, Top Banana and SPIN Theatre. Thank you to the VPA staff for four years of support and indulgence. Thank you to Josh Harper, Kelly Harris, Emily Ebertz, Kajsa Jones, Chelanga Langason, Lukas Hampton and many others for constantly challenging him to grow as an artist. Thank you to Michael Ehrecke for being a supporter and inspiration from the first Zimmerman to the last. Thank you to Gage Dykema for Monday nights. Thank you to Julia Mandsager for being a constant source of comfort and love and
keeping G the D from licking his face off. Finally, thank you to the Metamorphoses cast for realizing that ‘though I am unaware of any intentional error, I am nevertheless too aware of my defects not to realize that I have probably made many errors’.

ERIK MUEERTHIES is in his first year at Luther College, as a Theatre and Computer Science major. Metamorphoses is Erik’s first mainstage production at Luther College; he has also performed as part of SPIN Theatre. While at Cedar Falls High School, Erik portrayed Barry in The Boys Next Door and was a part of the ensemble in All Shook Up. He would like to thank his mom and dad for supporting him and cheering him on through everything; thanks to Gina for being such a great role model growing up.

SKYE NEWCOM is currently a sophomore Theatre & Art major. His past credits include Thor Waldgrave in The Nerd, Lefou in Beauty and the Beast, Stephen (Jesus) in Godspell, and a Kit Kat Club Dancer in Cabaret. Sky is also an active member of Cathedral Choir. He would like to thank his parents, Joy and Mark, and his brother, Stross Newcom, for their trust and love.

CHRISTIE OWENS is currently a junior here at Luther College, pursuing majors in Theatre and Music. Previous credits include roles in Tragedy Like Macbeth, Highway 57, Body of Water, and Cabaret as The Emcee. Favorite past shows include Anything Goes and How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, and as Stage Manager for The Diviners. Christie is also involved in Luther College Vocal Jazz as Co-Director, Collegiate Chorale, and the Social Chair of Chi Theta Rho. Thanks to all who allow us to share our art, music, and soul with them.

RYAN PIERCE is currently a sophomore pursuing a Music major, with Education and Theatre minors. He was last seen onstage as Leo in In the Next Room. Before that, he played roles in Leaving Iowa, Harvey, Bye Bye Birdie, Brother Grimm’s Spectaculathon, and Check Please while at Southeast Polk High School. Ryan serves as an RA in Larsen Hall, is a member of Cathedral Choir, a dancer for Luther College’s Competitive Ballroom/Swing Dance team, a member of FMEA, and a peer mentor for College Ministries. He would like to thank the Lord for His love and talents, his castmates for a fun and wonderful process of learning, his understanding and supportive Res Life staff, his loving friends, his amazing girlfriend for putting up with with his busy schedule, and his parents for their support and love no matter what he does.

JENNIFER SCHMIDT is pursuing a Dance degree, and is currently in her senior year. She has performed at Luther College in Cabaret, Highway 57, Forgiveness Lunch, Body of Water, What the Late Bird Gets, The Christians, and Top Banana Improv Troupe shows.

"The art of living is based on rhythm - on give and take, ebb and flow, light and dark, life and death. By acceptance of all aspects of life, good and bad, right and wrong, yours and mine, the static, defensive life, which is what most people are cursed with, is converted into a dance, ‘the dance of life’... All is creation, all is change, all is flux, all is metamorphosis."

- Henry Miller

Thank you for the dance.
MAGGIE SULENTIC, a junior Theatre major and Environmental Science minor, has been actively involved in the Luther College theatre department, most recently portraying Ariadne in A Thread in the Dark. Other roles have included Chloe in Arcadia, Madam Thenardier in Les Miserables, and Margaret in Much Ado About Nothing. Maggie serves as an Executive Board Member of SPIN Theatre Company, and as a member of Collegiate Chorale. She would like to thank her parents and grandparents for being so, so supportive, her Aunt Kay for inspiring and encouraging her, and her friends for putting up with her.

JOSH WEISENBURGER is in his sophomore year as a Theatre major. He has been involved in theatre at Luther College as Kiphrick in La Dispute and a Klub Dancer in Cabaret. Josh is also an active member of Cathedral Choir, Competitive Ballroom Dance, Top Banana Improv Troupe, and Bromatic. He would like to thank the faculty, Bobby, Jeff, and Grace, for all their hard work. Thanks to the cast and crew, and to Lis and Mim for keeping them all in line. Thanks, of course, to Ovid and Mary Zimmerman. And, since our work is made possible in part thanks to viewers like you, thank you!

EMMA WITHERS is currently in her first year at Luther College as an Elementary Education major. Her previous credits include The Fairy Godmother in Cinderella, Gladys in The Pajama Game, Ethyl P. Savage in The Curious Savage, Roz in 9 to 5, Cyncia in Many Moons, Seussical, The Musical as Cat in the Hat, and The Tavern as The Vagabond. Here at Luther, she she has had the opportunity to be a drummer for the Luther College Jazz Band, a vocal soloist in the Luther College Jazz Orchestra, a member of two campus bible studies groups, in addition to various activities within the Theatre department. First and foremost, Emma would like to thank God for blessing her with the ability to act and perform. She would also like to thank her family for being at every one of her shows throughout the years: her mom for always running lines with her over and over again and truly believing in her, her dad for teaching her to be tough and go for what she desires, and her brother for cheering her on and being her role model. She is blessed.

LILI ZENOBIAN is a first year, Communications major. This is Lili's first show experience here at Luther College but she is so excited for many more to come. She was very involved in theater all throughout high school, and plans to stay very involved with the Theater Department in her time at Luther College. Lili is also involved in KWLJC and Orshire. She would like to send a thank you to the cast for being so fun and supporting of each other, to Dr. Bobby for putting this all together, thank you to the stage crew for all of their hard work and help, and to her friends and family for supporting her!
LIS ATHAS is in her senior year as a Theatre & Management major. This is her first experience stage managing. She's acted in Much Ado About Nothing, Arcadia, Cabaret, La Dispute, Sister Angelica, A Thread in the Dark, SPIN's God of Carnage, and Overtones. Lis works as the Web Content Manager for the VPA Department, and is a Resident Assistant in Larsen Hall. After graduation, she will start an apprenticeship acting and teaching at St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, WI. Thank you to her ASMs, the full Production Team, and Cast for trusting her with this project - it's been a fantastic experience with which to close her time at Luther. Thank you to her parents, brother, groupies, and boyfriend for their support these last four years and in the coming years! Love to you all!

ABBY SYME is a junior pursuing an Art major with Theatre and Communications minors. She created puppets for the fall production of Thread in the Dark and has worked on numerous Luther shows through the costume shop, in addition to performing through SPIN Theatre. She also hosts a Classic Rock show on KWLC radio Saturdays at 3! Abbey would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported her in the process, to her family for their constant support and to Yifa Muindi for sparking her on this journey by including puppets in Thread in the Dark.

MIM HARRIES is currently a junior with a major in Math/Statistics and minors in Computer Science and Theatre. She's been on-stage at Luther in In the Next Room, or, The Vibrator Play (Annie); Proof (Catherine); and Much Ado About Nothing (Watchman). She has also been actively involved backstage at Luther, for Highway 57, Cabaret, Arcadia, On the Verge, and Tragedy Like Macbeth. Thanks to the cast for making this such a fun experience, to Lis and Abbey for keeping her sane, and to her friends and boyfriend for putting up with her crazy schedule, as always.
The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 48,
part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program,
is generously funded by David and Alice Rubenstein.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; the Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation; the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation; The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust; Hilton Worldwide; and Beatrice and Anthony Welters and the AnBryce Foundation.

Education and related artistic programs are made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President’s Advisory Committee on the Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
A LOOK AT OUR 2015-16 SEASON: Impermanence

Fall:
Love and Information by Caryl Churchill
Sunday in the Park with George with book by James Lapin,
music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Spring:
The Invitation Game, an original dance work
The Illusion by Pierre Corneille & Tony Kushner

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT FACULTY & STAFF

Tom Berger, Dance & Theatre Technical Director
Jeff Dintaman, Professor of Theatre
Kate Elliott, Assistant Professor in Art History
Sarah Frydenlund, Adjunct Faculty in Art
Jane Hawley, Professor of Dance
David Kamm, Art Gallery Coordinator/Assistant Professor of Art
Lisa Lantz, Associate Professor of Theatre, Visual & Performing Arts Department Head (on sabbatical spring semester)
Robert J. Larson, Professor Emeritus of Theatre
Lea Lovelace, Adjunct Faculty in Art
Aaron Lurth, Director of Visual Media, Staff Instructor in Art
Joe Madrigal, Assistant Professor of Art
Richard Merritt, Professor of Art
Ben Moore, Associate Professor of Art, Visual & Performing Arts Department Acting Head (spring semester)
Blake Nellis, Adjunct Faculty in Dance
Paul Rude, Administrative Assistant Communication Studies, Visual & Performing Arts
Grace Trimble, Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre (spring semester)
Bobby Vrtis, Assistant Professor of Theatre