Upcoming Productions

One-Act Festival
April 5, 7:30 p.m.
April 6, 1:30 p.m.
April 7, 1:30 p.m.

Dance and Theatre Senior Project Presentations
April 13, 7:30 p.m.

What Would Love Do?
May 9, 7:30 p.m.
May 10, 7:30 p.m.
May 11, 1:30 p.m.
May 11, 7:30 p.m.

Dance & Theatre Faculty and Staff
Jane Hawley, Professor of Dance
Dr. Bobby Vrtis, Assistant Professor of Dance
Jeff Dintaman, Professor of Theatre
Tom Berger, Technical Director
Ali Filipovich, Costume Shop Supervisor

Luther College Theatre
Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ APPROPRIATE
is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York
**Appropriate**

*Adj.*

1. Suitable or fitting for a particular purpose, person, occasion, etc.
2. Belonging to or peculiar to a person; proper.
3. To set apart, authorize, or legislate for some specific purpose of use.

*V.*

4. To take to or for oneself; take possession of.
5. To take without permission or consent; seize; expropriate.
6. To steal, especially to commit petty theft.

The verb and the adjective of “appropriate” seem at first read to be complete opposites. And yet, they are the same. What is appropriate when so much of American history has been built on the appropriation, exploitation, and oppression of peoples?

Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins writes the history of America into the history of one family, as the estranged members of the Lafayette family return to their father’s plantation home to clean it out the summer after his death. They are confronted with a history that they do not know how to listen to. Just as the cicadas screaming in the trees, in this play we hear the silent scream of oppression as it permeates the world that we live in, seeping into our floorboards, cluttering our shelves, resting on our tongues, and steeping in the air we breathe. Appropriate asks us to examine the threads of our lives in the tapestry of time - as we see Jacobs-Jenkins’ characters struggle to do so. What do we ourselves appropriate, and what belongs particularly to us?

And what, through us, belongs particularly to America?

- Anna Becker, Assistant Director

**Director’s Notes**

Some things are just in the air we breathe, inescapable. It is useless to pretend otherwise.

In the second act, Cassidy asks Rhys how cicadas learn the song so central to their life cycle if they weren’t taught it by their parents. After all, the cicadas that come up singing from the earth are the offspring of parents who are themselves 13 years dead. Were they programmed with the song like biological computers? Did they absorb it in the egg? Is the song some inextricable part of them?

How do we learn something central to our lives without being taught it? The cicadas in this play, always singing just outside, suggest that some things just pervade our lives, invisible in their ubiquity but nevertheless shaping our actions and our views.

To my mind, the brilliance of Appropriate is in the interplay of absence and presence. The Lafayette family is revealed in this play primarily by their relationship to people and events that both are and are not on stage. Ghosts haunt the edges of this play, they press in on the bodies of the living, and they provide the characters with their distinct shapes through their forcefully present absences.

Some things are just in the air we breathe, inescapable. It is useless to pretend otherwise. And yet we do.

-Dr. Bobby Vrtis, Director
CAST
Toni               Mikaela Hanrahan
Bo                Mitchell Gage
Rhys                Evergreen Wildingway
Franz                Trevor Haren
Cassidy        Sophie Nall
River                Vivian Kampschroer
Rachael            Clare Rolinger
Ainsley        Viola Vrtis
River and Rachael Understudy Camryn Berg
Toni and Cassidy Understudy Lindsey Fry
Bo and Rhys Understudy Philip Royer
Franz Understudy Paul Adams

Production Team
Dr. Bobby Vrtis - Director
Jeff Dintaman - Designer
Tom Berger - Technical Director
Ali Filipovich - Costume Shop Supervisor
Ashley Schultz - Stage Manager
Ian Wreisner - Assistant Stage Manager
Ridley Hanson - Stage Crew
Gacie Rotter - Stage Crew
Parker Fretheim - Stage Crew/Projections
Claire Twedt - Dresser
Cleo Garza - Light Board
Matthew Raihala - Sound Board
Grace Huber - Young Actor Wrangler

Special Thanks
Iris Johnson, plantation painting
Aaron Lurth, camera
VPA Faculty, Staff & Students, set dressing

Construction Crews

Scenery, Properties, Lighting
Paul Adams ’22
Chase Burbridge ’22
Jorge Chavez ’20
Kai Davis ’22
Gunnar Ehlers ’20
Indigo Fish ’22
Cleo Garza ’21
Ridley Hanson ’22
Rye Hawley ’22
Isabella Jenkinson ’21
Erik Johnson ’22
Jonathan Kuehner ’19
Isaac Logeman ’19
Noah Manke ’20
Samson Masanga ’20
Jenna Reimann ’20
Philip Royer ’22
Max Skrzypek ’19
Andrew Tiede ’19
Emily Toensing ’19

Costumes
Alexis Olson, ’19
Brooke Prohaska, ’22
Claire Twedt, ’21
Emma Kmoch, ’19
Elena Fackler, ’22
Mikaela Hanrahan ’20
Mina Sahir, ’22
Morgan Notch, ’21
Katie Walller, ’22
Linnea Lee-Brown, ’21
Liz Bolthouse, ’20 i think
Sophie Nall, ’22
Sophie Nystrom, 21

Costume Storage workers:
Jennifer Anderson ’21
Mitch Gage ’19
Paul Adams - Theatre Major
This is his first stage involvement of his collegiate career.

Anna Becker - History Major, Theatre and Africana Studies Minors
Anna is the Managing Director of SPIN Theatre Company. Past directing credits include: Selections from the Private Lives of the Master Race, After Dark: A Musical Theatre Cabaret (SPIN), A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Assistant Director, VPA), Community of Care (2017, 2018, Student Life). This April, Anna will be stage managing The Giver in the upcoming One Act Festival. Thanks to Noah Tiegs for the friendship and for keeping me grounded.

Camryn Berg - Theatre and Biology Double Major
Camryn would to thank the Appropriate cast for their kindness and acceptance towards her, as it is her first college show. She’d also like to thank everyone who comes for helping to create a conversation about the important issues that arise in this play.

Lindsey Fry - Theatre and Visual Communications Double Major
It has been so fun to have been able to be a part of this show and I appreciate everyone who has helped make it possible.

Mitchell Gage - Music and Theatre Double Major, Management Minor
Gage has been involved in various productions in opera, musical theatre, and theatre at Luther College as well as outside of it. Past roles include Don Alfonso (Cosi Fan Tutte), Goat (The Robber Bridegroom), John Wilkes Booth (Assassins), Dater #7 (SPEED DATING TONIGHT!), and Giuseppe (The Gondoliers). This is Gage’s last show at Luther College, and he would like to thank the cast and Dr. Bobby for being incredible.

Mikaela Hanrahan - Music and Theatre Double Major, Management Minor
Mikaela is a sophomore majoring in music and theatre with a minor in management. She sings in Nordic Choir and Vocal Jazz, participates in SPIN Theatre, and is a member of the Performing Arts Committee. She has previously been seen in the VPA’s productions of Marie Antoinette and Rent. Mikaela would like thank her wonderful family and friends for always being so supportive, as well as all of the cast members for making this show such a uniquely incredible experience.

Trevor Haren - Theatre Major, Music Minor
Involved in the theatre and music departments as well as Luther’s Cross Country and Track & Field Teams, Trevor is thankful for this tight-knit, goofy and loving cast, as well as his family, and friends for being so supportive and always pushing him to be his best.

Vivian Kamperschroer - Theatre Major
Vivian is very excited to get to play River. It isn’t too often she finds herself in somewhat of a comedic role, but when she does she has fun with it. Vivian was seen last in Luther’s production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream as Titania. It has been a great experience working with this cast and getting to become closer friends with everyone, she says. Vivian would like to add a thank you to her castmates for being supportive rays of light in her life, Dr. Bobby for helping her discover even deeper loves for theatre, Ashley Schultz for being an amazing stage manager, and Anna Becker for being the oh so knowledgeable mega queen the universe needs.

Sophie Nall - Theatre Major, Spanish Minor
Sophie has recently appeared in Luther’s A Midsummer Night’s Dream, and is excited to be playing a child once again! She also hopes that you will come see the One Act Festival in April, for which she is directing The Summer People!

Clare Rolinger - Theatre Major, English Minor
One of Clare’s all-time favorite shows is Our Town, by Thornton Wilder. She loves poetry, cats, and Kraft spaghetti. Clare would like to thank both of her parents for their constant love and support (and for continually insisting that she become “the next Meryl Streep”).

Philip Royer - Music & Theatre double Major, Music Education Minor
A special thank you to those that have gotten me to where I am today, I couldn’t have done it without you.

Ashley Schultz - History and Religion double Major
Ashley is so excited to continue her involvement in Luther’s theatre department. She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her, and her dogs, for always loving her.

Evergreen Wildingway - Theatre Major
Evergreen has enjoyed working on this production immensely. He wants to thank you all for coming and hopes you enjoy the show!