



Iowa Director's Festival

This year's Iowa Director's Festival includes four shows presented over two weeks, all directed by MFA directing candidates.

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Performances:

Thursday, Feb. 6 – *Far Away* and *Dutchman*

Friday, Feb. 7 – *Tom & Eliza* and *And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens*

Saturday, Feb. 8 – *Far Away* and *Dutchman*

Thursday, Feb. 13 – *Tom & Eliza* and *And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens*

Friday, Feb. 14 – *Far Away* and *Dutchman*

Saturday, Feb. 15 – *Tom & Eliza* and *And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens*

Tickets:

Purchase your tickets in advance through Hancher Box Office by calling 319-335-1160 or online through [their website](#).

The Box Office at the Theatre Building opens one hour prior to the performance, with tickets on an as-available basis, unless the production is sold out.

Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact the Department of Theatre Arts at 319-335-2700 in advance of the event.



Far Away

By Caryl Churchill

Directed by Meredith G. Healy

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Approximate run time is 55 minutes. There is an intermission, followed by the performance of *Dutchman*.

Please be advised this performance includes haze and discusses war, death, and drug use.

Ever since Joan's childhood, she has witnessed people doing horrific things in the name of doing what is "right." Caryl Churchill's *Far Away* examines what happens in a world when no one, not even the cats and the rivers, can be trusted.

Far Away is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Performances:

Thursday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Far Away – Meet the Cast

FAR AWAY

BY CARYL CHURCHILL

DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY

MEET THE CAST



Joan | MADDIE RODRIGUEZ*

Maddie Rodriguez is a third-year undergraduate studying theatre and ethics & public policy at the University of Iowa. Some of her previous works at the university include *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifties*, *Dance Nation*, *Men on Boats*, *Braided Sorrow*, and *Mother:Knife*. She's so grateful to the wonderful team of *Far Away* for creating a lovely space to explore such a fascinating show.



Harper | KAYLA LEACOCK**

Kayla Leacock is beyond thrilled to be in *Far Away*! Select credits include: National Tour: *PAW Patrol Live!* (Rocky), *Rosie Rever Engineer & Friends* (Ada Twist) Regional: *The Color Purple* (Nettie), *Hurricane Diane* (Renee), *Bad World: A New Musical* (Linnea), *Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical* (Lily Polkadot), *Hairspray* (Dynamite). Special thanks to my family, friends, and the entire theatre department!

*Undergraduate student. **Graduate student.

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY
MEET THE CAST



Todd | EPHRAM SINNWELL*

Ephram is a second-year undergraduate studying screenwriting and theatre arts at the University of Iowa and is thrilled to be taking on his fourth acting credit as Todd in Caryl Churchill's *Far Away* for the 2025 Iowa Director's Festival. He was recently seen as Sherlock Holmes in *Sherlock Holmes & The West End Horror*, Dolabella/Pompey/Investigator/Osiris in *Spells for Going Forth By Daylight*, as well as a revolutionary in *Marie Antoinette*. Ephram hopes you'll enjoy this

abstract piece as species, occupations, and nationalities collide during wartime.



The Parade | CHARLOTTE LARSEN*

*Undergraduate student. **Graduate student.

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY
MEET THE CAST

The Parade | JENNA SCHNELLBACHER*

IOWA

Theatre Arts

The Parade | KATHLEEN GODSEL*

IOWA

Theatre Arts

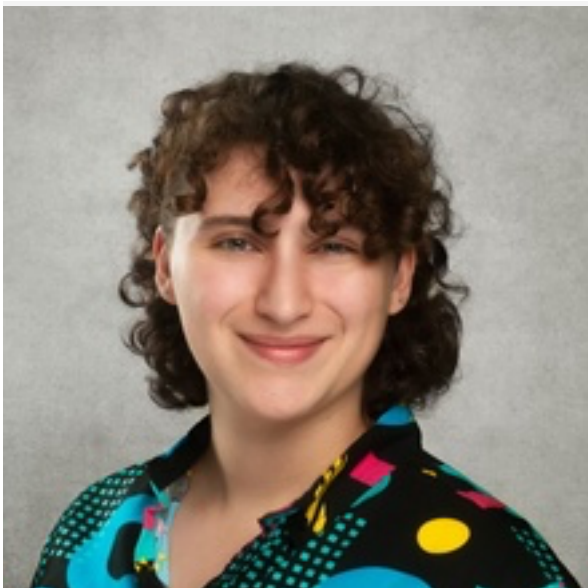
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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY
MEET THE CAST



The Parade | HARVEY HAGGAS*



The Parade | GABBY JOHNSON*

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FAR AWAY
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MEET THE CAST



The Parade | NORAH LOGAN*



The Parade | SOREN MARTIN*

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
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MEET THE CAST

The Parade | REYNA MCDERMOTT*

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Far Away – Meet the Creative Team

FAR AWAY

BY CARYL CHURCHILL

DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director | MEREDITH G. HEALY**

Meredith is a second-year directing candidate at the University of Iowa. Originally from Lexington, KY, Meredith made her way to Iowa by way of Wellesley, MA; Providence, RI; and Portland, ME. During her first year, she directed *Brother-Brother* by Sixtus Chetachi Igbokwe for the Gallery Series and *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifties* by Derick Edgren Otero for the Iowa New Play Festival. Last semester, she was the dramaturg and assistant director for *Marie Antoinette* (2024).

Meredith would like to thank her family for their unwavering support!



Dramaturg | REBECCA WEAVER**

Rebecca Weaver is in their final year as an MFA candidate in the dramaturgy program here at the University of Iowa. Previously, Rebecca obtained two bachelor's degrees in English and drama (2020) at Jacksonville State University where they then received their master's degree in English (2022). Their most recent theatre credits include dramaturging *American Rusalki* (Ulowa), *In the Red and Brown Water* (Ulowa), *Macbeth* (Ulowa) *You're Still Here* (NPF, Ulowa), *Ugly Lies the*

Bone (Ulowa), and *The Children's Hour* (Ulowa). They are very honored to have worked with the cast and creative team of *Far Away*, especially the director, Meredith Healy. Enjoy the show!

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY
MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Stage Manager | SOPHIE YOUNG*

Sophie Young is a fourth-year undergraduate student studying theatre, cinema, and digital arts with a focus on stage management. Her most recent credits at the University of Iowa include *American Rusalki*, *Into the Woods*, and *Brother-Brother*. Sophie is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work on one final show at the university, and she couldn't have asked for a better team to work with. Her thanks go out to the rest of the lovely stage management

team on this show. She hopes you enjoy the shows!



Scenic Designer | CHLOE COBB**

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY
MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Costume Designer | ABIGAIL GARRATY**



Lighting Designer | BRYON WINN

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Sound Designer | MOLLY COSTELLO*

Molly is a fourth-year theatre arts student with focuses in sound and digital media design, she is also pursuing a certificate in public digital arts. Previous University of Iowa credits include *You're Still Here, Reflections, Dance Nation, American Rusalki, THE (T-)RE(X)FORMATION*, and *When you Read This*. She is eternally grateful to the wonderful production team and staff for their unending support. Listen with care, and enjoy the show!



Assistant Director | HANNAH SIEFKEN*

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FAR AWAY
BY CARYL CHURCHILL
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH G. HEALY
MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Assistant Stage Manager | SAMMI LEWIS*

Sammi Lewis (she/her) is a second-year undergraduate stage manager. She has been involved in theater for years and started assistant stage managing when she came to Iowa. Her past productions include *Home is Where the TV Is*, *Razor Creek*, and *UH-OH!* She wants to thank the cast and crew for making this process so fun. Enjoy the show!

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Dutchman

By LeRoi Jones/Amiri Baraka

Directed by Josh Turner

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Approximate run time is 40 minutes. This performance begins after the performance of *Far Away* and intermission.

Please be advised this performance includes sexual dialogue, racially charged language and violence, depiction of murder and blood, and a few seconds of strobing lights.

Traveling on the city subway, everything seems innocent in the conversation between Clay and Lula, but things quickly escalate. *Dutchman*, by Amiri Baraka, a highly influential and provocative storyteller of the Black experience, examines the damage to and silence of the Black community — a cycle we seem doomed to repeat.

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Performances:

Thursday, February 6 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 14 at 8:00 p.m.

Dutchman – Meet the Cast

DUTCHMAN

BY LEROI JONES/AMIRI BARAKA

DIRECTED BY JOSH TURNER

MEET THE CAST



Clay | PRESTON COLEMAN**

Preston Coleman is a first-year MFA acting candidate. Prince-George's County, MD native. He earned his bachelor's degree at Morgan State University (HBCU) in theatre arts. He performed in the mainstage production of *Marie Antoinette* directed by Mary Beth Easley as Revolutionary #2 last fall semester at the University of Iowa. This is his first leading role. He is grateful for the opportunity to work on this production of *Dutchman* by Amiri Baraka. He is thankful for the

collaboration and bond of this dedicated cast, and director Josh Turner.

Lastly, he appreciates the support from stage management, creative team, crew, and administration who were a part of the cast process to bring this play to life here at University of Iowa theatre department.



Lula | JENNIFER HOGAN*

Jennifer is in her final year at Iowa, studying acting, English creative writing, and cinema. On stage, she was most recently a part of Dreamwell Theatre's production of *Myocardium Graphite* by Eli Campbell, where she played K.C. Offstage, Jennifer has been in three independent short films, the most recent titled, *Harmony*. Jennifer is beyond grateful for the opportunity to work on such a challenging and important piece as *Dutchman*. It has been a great honor to

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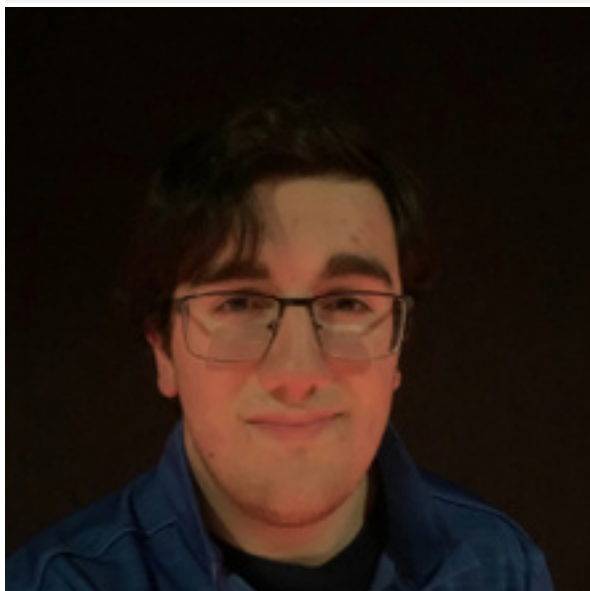
DUTCHMAN

BY LEROI JONES/AMIRI BARAKA

DIRECTED BY JOSH TURNER

MEET THE CAST

work with everyone on this production. She would especially like to thank Josh Turner for selecting such a valuable play, for trusting her with Lula, and for believing in her as an artist, always.



Well Dressed Man | LUCAS DE LA ROSA*



The Drunk | CREYTON CONREY*

Creyton is a second-year newly declared theatre major. This is his first show ever and he can't wait to perform.

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MEET THE CAST



Young Man | ISAIAH OWENS**

Isaiah Mark Owens is an actor currently pursuing an MFA in acting at the University of Iowa. Driven by a passion for storytelling and African American culture, Isaiah eagerly anticipates delving into diverse characters within the dynamic realm of theater. His recent acting credits include performances in *Flashes*, *Elder's Speak*, and *Parade*.

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Dutchman – Meet the Creative Team

DUTCHMAN

BY LEROI JONES/AMIRI BARAKA

DIRECTED BY JOSH TURNER

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director | JOSH TURNER**

Josh Turner (Director/Fight Director), an Atlanta native, earned his BFA in acting from the Gainesville Theatre Alliance. His passion for storytelling began early, inspired by his grandfather, Ural Smith Jr., leading him to believe that great stories can change lives and touch hearts. Josh has performed in award-winning productions such as "The New Black Fest's Hands Up: 7 Playwrights/7 Testaments," which was staged at The Alliance Theatre and received a Suzi Bass Award for Outstanding Social Justice

Production. As a Director, his credits include new works such as *The Just Us League* (Gainesville Theatre Alliance), *West Illinois Glass House* (University of Iowa), and *Spells For Going Forth by Daylight* (UI New Play Festival), as well as classics like *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play* (AD Players Theatre). Josh is currently pursuing his MFA in directing at the University of Iowa. He would like to thank his wife, Zafyre, for her love and support!

Dramaturg | BO HUA LIN**

IOWA

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DUTCHMAN

BY LEROI JONES/AMIRI BARAKA

DIRECTED BY JOSH TURNER

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Stage Manager | SOPHIE YOUNG*

Sophie Young is a fourth-year undergraduate student studying theatre, cinema, and digital arts with a focus on stage management. Her most recent credits at the University of Iowa include *American Rusalki*, *Into the Woods*, and *Brother-Brother*. Sophie is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work on one final show at the university, and she couldn't have asked for a better team to work with. Her thanks go out to the rest of the lovely stage management team on this show. She hopes you enjoy the shows!



Scenic Designer | CHLOE COBB**

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DUTCHMAN

BY LEROI JONES/AMIRI BARAKA

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Costume Designer | EMILY BUSHÁ



Lighting Designer | BRYON WINN

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Sound Designer | MOLLY COSTELLO*

Molly is a fourth-year theatre arts student with focuses in sound and digital media design, she is also pursuing a certificate in public digital arts. Previous University of Iowa credits include *You're Still Here*, *Reflections*, *Dance Nation*, *American Rusalki*, *THE (T-)RE(X)FORMATION*, and *When you Read This*. She is eternally grateful to the wonderful production team and staff for their unending support. Listen with care, and enjoy the show!



Assistant Stage Manager | SAMMI LEWIS*

Sammi Lewis (she/her) is a second-year undergraduate stage manager. She has been involved in theater for years and started assistant stage managing when she came to Iowa. Her past productions include *Home is Where the TV Is*, *Razor Creek*, and *UH-OH!* She wants to thank the cast and crew for making this process so fun. Enjoy the show!

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Tom & Eliza

By Celine Song

Directed by Kayla Adams

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Approximate run time is 45 minutes. There is an intermission, followed by the performance of *And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens*.

Please be advised this performance includes strong sexual language.

Tom and Eliza are moving persistently toward the future in their own fantastically twisted journeys. Written by Celine Song — writer and director of the award-winning movie *Past Lives* — *Tom & Eliza* propels us on a journey from a first date to the end of life as we know it.

Performances:

Friday, February 7 at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 15 at 8:00 p.m.

Tom & Eliza – Meet the Cast

TOM & ELIZA

BY CELINE SONG

DIRECTED BY KAYLA ADAMS

MEET THE CAST



Tom | HUNTER MEYER**

Hunter Meyer is a first-year MFA acting candidate from Kansas City. He was recently seen as Louis XVI in the University of Iowa's production of *Marie Antoinette*, as well as Howard in Tent Theatre's production of *Moon Over Buffalo*.



Eliza | ALYSSA BENITEZ**

Alyssa Benitez is a first-year MFA acting candidate making her debut with *Tom & Eliza*. Favorite past credits include Stella in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and Carlo in *At The Wedding*. She is grateful to her friends, cohort, and family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show.

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Tom & Eliza – Meet the Creative Team

TOM & ELIZA

BY CELINE SONG

DIRECTED BY KAYLA ADAMS

MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director | KAYLA ADAMS**

Kayla is an MFA directing candidate at the University of Iowa. She holds a degree in theatre arts from Western Washington University. She is currently an ensemble member at The Artistic Home Theatre in Chicago, IL where she also teaches in their Meisner-based acting studio.

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Dramaturg | BO HUA LIN**

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TOM & ELIZA
BY CELINE SONG
DIRECTED BY KAYLA ADAMS
MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Stage Manager | EMMA MERKES*

Emma is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing a double major in theatre, with a focus on stage management, and art, earning her BFA in graphic design. Her stage management credits include *In This Sepulcher*, *We Are Fed* and *rockabye*, while she has served as Assistant Stage Manager for *In the Red & Brown Water* and *Something Rotten!* at the University of Iowa. She would like to give special thanks to her parents and friends for their unwavering support and a shout-out to the amazing team she is working

with on her first mainstage production!



Scenic Designer | CHLOE COBB**

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TOM & ELIZA
BY CELINE SONG
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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Costume Designer | EMILY BUSHÁ



Lighting Designer | BRYON WINN

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Assistant Stage Manager | ABBIE TALKEN*

Abbie is a third-year undergraduate computer science and theatre arts double major with focuses in stage management and technical theatre. She has previously stage managed the University of Iowa's production of *THE (T-)RE(X)FORMATION* and assistant stage managed *Borderless: Big Ballroom Extravaganza*. She is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work on a mainstage production and for the wonderful team she gets to work with, along with the never-ending support she receives from her friends, family,

and cats.

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And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by Michael C. Flores

David Thayer Theatre | UI Theatre Building

Approximate run time is 50 minutes. This performance begins after the performance of *Tom & Eliza* and intermission.

Please be advised this performance includes strong language, sexual language, homophobic slurs, onstage violence including the depiction of an assault, themes of gender identity and societal marginalization, and emotional manipulation and abusive dynamics.

Having a “weakness for youth,” Candy’s romantic partner of 17 years has left her alone to manage her life as a respected landlord and drag queen. With her 35th birthday looming, Candy seeks out love in all the wrong places, willing to do anything to rekindle the love she lost.

And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

Performances:

Friday, February 7 at 8:00 p.m.

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And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens

Meet the Cast

AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL C. FLORES
MEET THE CAST



Candy Delaney | BRODY KIVETT*

Brody Kivett is a fourth-year at the University of Iowa, double majoring in theatre arts and gender, women, and sexuality studies, along with a minor in art. This is Brody's eighth production with the university. Brody plays the role of Candy Delaney, an interior decorator and drag queen, dreading the arrival of her 35th birthday. Some past roles include Malcolm in *Anti-Hero: Revenge of the Swifties*, Apollo in *The Space Between Coke Bottles and Orange Slices*, and an ensemble

dance member of *Fairyland: A Disorderly Conduct Cabaret*. I would like to thank my mother Allison and father Mark for being pillars of support in my artistic career. I would also like to thank Michael for this amazing opportunity, as well as my cast and crew for creating such an engaging and loving rehearsal space. Enjoy the show!



Karl | DANNY WEBER*

Danny Weber is a sophomore here at the University of Iowa double-majoring in theatre arts and informatics. This is his first production here as he recently switched to the theatre arts major. Danny plays the role of Karl, a sailor who comes to New Orleans in between assignments. He has been in numerous high school productions such as *Mamma Mia* and *Chicago*. He would like to thank his parents and family for their continued support of his passion and

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AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
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MEET THE CAST

goals. Danny is super excited to show you all the great work that he and his castmates have been doing!



Alvin | BRODY OHM

Brody graduated in the spring of 2024 with a degree in acting with a track in musical theatre. During his time as a student you may have seen him in *Razor Creek: a folk-rock sci-fi musical* last spring during New Play Festival (*Book Lady*), *Into the Woods* (Rapunzel's Prince), *Something Rotten!* (Nostradamus), or *String* (ensemble)! Brody is more than honored to be apart of this long-overdue opportunity of recognizing this story and rejoicing in queer art here at the University

of Iowa! Thank you to Michael, our director, for making this story be heard here and now.



Jerry | CODY HOLCOMB*

Cody Holcomb is a second-year at the University of Iowa, majoring in theatre arts and secondary English education. This is Cody's third production with the university. Cody plays the role of Jerry, one of Candy's tenants who lives upstairs. Past roles include Spero in *Ghost Town*, and Austin/Charlie in *Flashes*. Cody would like to thank his mom and dad for their everlasting love and support, Michael and the entire cast and crew for creating such a loving and welcoming space, and his

roommates for helping him memorize lines (whether they wanted to or not) and waiting up for him after rehearsals. Enjoy the show!

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And Tell Sad Stories of the Death of Queens

Meet the Creative Team

AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL C. FLORES
MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Director | **MICHAEL C. FLORES****

Michael Christopher Flores, a California native now based in Iowa City, is a second-year MFA candidate in directing at the University of Iowa. He holds a BA in performance with an emphasis in musical theatre from San Diego State University. Michael has directed and choreographed productions including *Bring It On: The Musical*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, and *Cabaret*. At the University of Iowa, his directing credits include new works such as *In This Sepulcher, We Are*

Fed, Flashes: A Fantasy Play, and *Razor Creek: A Folk Rock Sci-Fi Musical* & Michael also served as the assistant director & choreographer for *Into the Woods* last spring. In addition to this, Michael serves as the director of the Music Theatre Ambassadors. His directorial approach, informed by his background in movement, dance, and acting, emphasizes dynamic storytelling — committed to leaving a meaningful mark on the theatrical landscape. For more visit www.michaelcflores.com.

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BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
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MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM**



Dramaturg | MARGARET SMITH**

Margaret (she/her) is an MFA dramaturgy candidate. Her most recent dramaturgical credits at the University of Iowa include the collectively created *All Machines of Loving Grace* (2024), *Dance Nation* (2024), *Men on Boats* (2023), and several readings through the Iowa Playwrights Workshop. She holds an MA in theatre criticism & dramaturgy from the Royal Central School of Speech & Drama at the University of London and a BA (Hons) in English literature & theatre

studies from the University of Sheffield. She hopes you enjoy the show.



Stage Manager | EMMA MERKES*

Emma is a fourth-year undergraduate pursuing a double major in theatre, with a focus on stage management, and art, earning her BFA in graphic design. Her stage management credits include *In This Sepulcher, We Are Fed* and *rockabye*, while she has served as Assistant Stage Manager for *In the Red & Brown Water* and *Something Rotten!* at the University of Iowa. She would like to give special thanks to her parents and friends for their unwavering support and a shout-

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**AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
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Scenic Designer | CHLOE COBB**



Costume Designer | ABIGAIL GARRATY**

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Lighting Designer | BRYON WINN



Sound Designer | MOLLY COSTELLO*

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Assistant Stage Manager | ABBIE TALKEN*

Abbie is a third-year undergraduate computer science and theatre arts double major with focuses in stage management and technical theatre. She has previously stage managed the University of Iowa's production of *THE (T-)RE(X)FORMATION* and assistant stage managed *Borderless: Big Ballroom Extravaganza*. She is incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work on a mainstage production and for the wonderful team

she gets to work with, along with the never-ending support she receives from her friends, family, and cats.

*Undergraduate student. **Graduate student.

The Department of Theatre Arts is dedicated to providing hands-on theatre experience for both undergraduate and graduate students.

AND TELL SAD STORIES OF THE DEATH OF QUEENS
BY TENNESSEE WILLIAMS
DIRECTED BY MICHAEL C. FLORES
MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM

IOWA

Theatre Arts

Voiceover | DALE LEONHEART**

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Iowa Director's Festival – Meet the Crew

IOWA DIRECTOR'S FESTIVAL MEET THE CREW

Deck Crew Captain	Anthony Courant*
Wardrobe Crew Captain	Jacob Licht*
Light Board Operator/Media Board Operator	Sydney Williams
QLab Operator/Crew	Silas Young*
Run Crew – Automation Op & Fly	Abby Paul
	Charlotte Larsen*
Run Crew – Deck & Wardrobe	Grace Puchalla*
	Grace Ziomek*
Wardrobe Associate	Nat Payán
Assistant Wardrobe Associate	Hannah Oldham*
Production Lab Teaching Assistant	Meenakshi Chinmai**

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