

The Dartmouth Department of Theater
and
Vox Theater
present

VoxLab

2022

Saturday July 9

Osher and the Infinite Curtain • 8 pm

by Elise Wien '17

Directed by Gabby Farrah

Warner Bentley Theater

Sunday July 10

We Do the Same Thing Every Week • 1 pm

by Robert Leverett '16

Directed by Liza Couser '17

Warner Bentley Theater

Female Complaints • 7 pm

Music and Lyrics by Tina deVaron

Book and Lyrics and Direction by Kate Mulley '05

Music Direction by David Maglione

Warner Bentley Theater

**VOX
THEATER**



**Dartmouth
Department
of Theater**

A NOTE FROM VOXLAB

“You follow the same paths of thought as before. Only, they appear strewn with roses.”

-Walter Benjamin

We're back again in Hanover for the 10th annual VoxLab. Back in the Bentley, back on the green, back in the same office in Shakespeare Alley where I first interviewed for Acting 1 my freshman fall. It's a very comforting cycle to repeat, if a little poignant this year knowing that the Hop will soon close for renovations.

For alumni artists, VoxLab offers the escape that any residency offers: step away from your life for a little bit, and focus solely on your art. But what makes it unique is the chance to come back to where we were young, where we started out as artists, before we had as many cares or responsibilities. There's something in the air here, the sense-memory of prop storage and the echo of the stage in the Bentley. I have a theory that it breeds a certain *kind* of creativity: maybe we can access a little bit of that “beginner's mind” if we return to where we might not have known any better.

For students, VoxLab is a chance to not just see, but help *make* brand new theater, and make it with people who were—not too long ago—just like them. The alumni artists worked in the same spaces, ate at the same dining halls, slept in the same dorms. In fact, this year, almost all of the alumni artists worked with Vox when they were themselves sophomores. It's important that an '05 and a '24 can sit in the rehearsal room and talk about the shows they've done in the Bentley. It gives the '24 a chance to see how their artistic life might unfold, and that a life in the arts filled with exciting, new theater, is possible. I've always appreciated the poetic aspect to the residency: Alumni come back to an old place to develop something new, and in doing so, show current students a way forward.

Perhaps it's just me, but historical cycles feel more present these days, and the three pieces at VoxLab this year feel scarily relevant. An adaptation of a 100-year-old play, shot through with Jewish mysticism, shows us our new death in the time of COVID. A surrealist comedy enlists the Cat in the Hat to dramatize our eternal return. And a musical about a mid-century abortionist gives a preview of the coming decades. Go back to look forwards.

We could never have made it to 10 years without the unflagging support of the Dartmouth Theater Department, and the wonderful professors and employees that have made this place a home-away-from-home. Brianna Parry, Scott Henkels, Janine Thoma, Sharonna Henderson, and Lila Hovey '23 have all been enormously helpful this summer. And a special thanks to Laura Edmondson, Jamie Horton, and community members Ellen Bald and Fiona Heaney, for providing housing to our small group of artists. We truly couldn't have done it without you.

Matthew Cohn '08

(Didn't the roof of Baker-Berry used to be green?)

We would like to acknowledge that Dartmouth's campus is built on land taken from the Abenaki people.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATER

At this time each year, the Department of Theater shifts its attention to the development of new work. Over a period of ten weeks, the students of our Theater 65 course immerse themselves in the contemporary creative process via three distinct summer workshop-festivals, each one focused on theatrical collaboration and artistic creation.

The first of these is VoxLab – now celebrating its 10th year at Dartmouth! – which gives current students a glimpse of the professional creative process by bringing Dartmouth theater alumni back to campus to develop innovative new work. Students then work alongside their peers and professional directors to produce and perform the award-winning plays of the annual Eleanor Frost & Ruth and Loring Dodd Student Play Festival. And finally, to close the summer, they spend several weeks in August with the leading actors, playwrights, and directors of the renowned New York Theatre Workshop during its annual Dartmouth residency, a beloved tradition now in its 31st season that has brought dozens of Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning artists to campus over the years.

We call this collection of adventures the ‘Summer Theater Lab,’ and we are so pleased to be able to share it with you in person again this year (we will never again take that statement for granted) despite the ongoing challenges of COVID. We would also like to acknowledge at this time the remarkable contributions of everyone in this department – students, staff, and faculty. Their patience, tireless inventiveness, and truly exceptional work in the face of adversity over the past few years has made all the difference.

The Department of Theater is grateful for the generous support of President Phil Hanlon, the Office of the Provost, Associate Dean Sam Levey and the Dean of Faculty Office, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, and the Monahon Family Theater Fund, all of whom have helped make the 10th season of VoxLab possible. We would also like to express our appreciation of VoxLab and its artists for their unflagging generosity toward our students, mentoring them and expanding their artistic

horizons summer after summer. And of course we are grateful to you, our audience members, for your willingness to be part of this journey and for contributing to our ever-expanding sense of community.

In this challenging period of our history, we would again like to dedicate this summer's festivals to the critical work necessary to bring about lasting social change and healing.

Welcome to VoxLab 2022!

Rebecca Biron
Department Chair

Jamie Horton
Director of Theater

*This program is generously supported by:
The Office of the Dean of Faculty
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
The Neukom Institute for Computational Science
The Monabon Family Theater Fund*

*and by the individual supporters of Vox Theater:
Elena Bird, Anthony and Francesca Cohn, Laura Edmondson,
Katherine Fox, Karen Gilliatt, Aliza Green, Pallavi Kuppa-Apte,
Jory Macomber, Kendall MacRae, Anne and Tom McGonagle,
Suzanne Mercado, Marjani Nairne, Pamela Newkirk,
Annie Oppenheim, and Valerie Zhao*

selections from:

Osher and the Infinite Curtain

written by Elise Wien '17

directed by Gabby Farrah

Cast

Leye.Dori A. Robinson

Khonen, Menáshe.....Liba Vaynberg

Gítl, Play Development AssistantElda Kahssay '24

Sound Designer, Play Development AssistantRobbie Abel '24

This piece includes references to drug use and self-harm.



Elise Wien '17 (Playwright) is a playwright from New Rochelle, NY, who likes funny, formally unusual, heart-wrenching work. Her plays include [cowboy face] (Kennedy Center ACTF Mark Twain Prize for Comic Playwriting; Finalist, Leah Ryan Fund for Emerging Women Writers), Craters, or the making of the making of the moon landing (Production, Smith College;

Reading, Corkscrew Theater Festival), and cara has a hole in her head (Finalist, Samuel French OOB Short Play Festival). She has worked with Undiscovered Countries, The 24 Hour Plays: Nationals, Dixon Place, The Tank Rule of 7x7, and the Hopkins Center for the Arts in Hanover, N.H. She is currently attending Boston University's Playwriting MFA program.



Gabby Farrah (Director) is a Brooklyn-based director and producer, originally from Boston, Massachusetts. She has worked at Clubbed Thumb, PlayCo, NYTW Next Door, Page 73, The Kennedy Center, The Huntington, Theater in Quarantine, Playground-NY, The Brick, MAD House, and Eggtooth Productions. She'll spend next season as a Directing Fellow at Playwrights Horizons. She received her BA from Smith College, where she was

awarded the Samuel A. Eliot Jr. & Julia Heflin Award for Directing.

We Do The Same Thing Every Week

written by Robert Leverett '16
directed by Liza Couser '17

Cast

Jane.....	Kate Budney '21
Dick.....	Robert Leverett '16
Cat.....	Owen O'Leary '19
Fish.....	Zahra Ruffin '17
Thing 1.....	Omala Snyder '24
Thing 2.....	David Katz '24
Ice Box.....	Nicolle Allen '16



Liza Couser '17 (Director) is a director and producer of new plays and musicals based in New York City. Select recent credits: PRIMETIME THEATER FESTIVAL (Co-Founder & Producer), MEAT (Director, Vox Fest), POLYLOGUES (Producer, HERE Arts Center), WITH WORDS THAT DON'T EXIST (Director & Composer, VoxLab).

Liza has collaborated and presented work with Ars Nova, Northern Stage, The Tank, New London Barn Playhouse, 59E59 Theaters, Theater for the New City, BRIC Arts, and Dartmouth College. She is an alum of the Roundabout Directors Group, SDCF Observership, Ars Nova Artistic Fellowship, and 24 Hour Plays Nationals. lizacouser.com



Robert Leverett '16 (Playwright, Dick) is an actor, writer, and producer based in New York. His play MEAT was workshopped at VoxLab Summer Theater Festival in 2020. Robert co-founded and produced PRIMETIME THEATER FESTIVAL (Virtual). Past acting credits include "TONI AND THE PIG"

(Undiscovered Countries) "[COWBOY FACE]" (Dixon Place), "&CRISYDE" (Experimental Bitch Presents), "TWELFTH NIGHT" (No Name Collective), and The 24 Hour Play Nationals.

Female Complaints

Music and Lyrics by Tina deVaron

Book and Lyrics and Direction by

Kate Mulley '05

Music Direction by David Maglione

Cast

Inez Burns..... Elizabeth Nestlerode

Dr. West/Pat Brown.....Nicholas Cunha

William Malone/Thomas Lynch/Ensemble.....Lila Hovey '23

Anna Linder/Nettie/Ensemble.....Lexy Piton '24

William Newsom/Walter McGovern/

Ensemble.....Jack Heaphy '24

This piece includes profanity, mentions of incest, spousal abuse, blood, and medical malpractice; depictions of abortion, misogyny, drug use, and sexual assault; and discussions of pregnancy.



Kate Mulley '05 (book, lyrics, direction) is an internationally acclaimed playwright, librettist/lyricist, producer, and dramaturg whose work explores gender, power, place and desire through a feminist, and often historical, lens. Her musical *Razorhurst*, written with Andy Peterson, was commissioned by and had its world premiere at Luna Stage (New Jersey) and its Australian premiere at the Hayes Theatre in Sydney. Kate has been an Artist in Residence at Soaring Gardens Artist Retreat (Pennsylvania), Corsicana Artist and Writer Residency (Texas), Arteles Creative Center (Finland), Catwalk Institute (New York) and Nantucket Island School of Design and the Arts (Massachusetts). Kate has been a Guest Artist at Dartmouth, Montclair State University, Studio Tisch, and New York Film Academy and a Playwriting Fellow at Shanghai Theatre Academy where her play *The Tutor* was produced and published in Mandarin. Kate is a writing mentor with Girls Write Now and the PEN Prison Writing mentorship program. She graduated from Dartmouth with a degree in Theater and History, received an MA in Writing for Performance at Goldsmiths College, London, and an MFA in Playwriting from Columbia. Kate co-founded Vox Theater with Matthew Cohn and Thom Pasculli in 2012.



Tina deVaron (music, lyrics) is a jazz performer-composer and fixture on the NYC scene with performances at the Carlyle, Waldorf-Astoria, Russian Tea Room, Rainbow Room, etc. Her songs have charted #1 on Billboard's Gospel charts and #2 on Club/Dance. Her musical *PERFECT MOTHERS* was named one of NYMF's Top Ten Shows to See. Under direction of Gretchen Cryer, she's writing an autobiographical solo piece, *FINGERNAILS IN THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF*. She has won both Catwalk and Soaring Gardens residencies to work on "Female Complaints," the musical she and collaborator Kate Mulley are bringing to VoxLab, about the life of notorious San Francisco abortionist Inez

Burns. Albums: IF MAMA AIN'T HAPPY, WATER OVER STONES, and TUCKERMAN'S RAVINE. Her work has garnered raves from The New York Times, Anne LaMott, Lisa Belkin, Sandy Kenyon, Tulis McCall, and CBS-TV. Winter 2020 was her fifteenth smash season at the Carlyle's "Madeline's Tea." ASCAP Abe Olman Award for Excellence in Songwriting, Dove Award Nomination. ASCAP, Dramatists Guild, BMI Workshop, Maestra, Local 802, Princeton grad.



David Thatcher Maglione (Music Director)

composes music and songs for theater, film, TV, orchestra, and other mixed media, while engaging the emotive influence of Music, Nature, Story, and Ancestry. Music written by Dave has been heard at venues in NYC such as 54 Below, The Laurie Beechman, and The Duplex. Most recently, Maglione was in residence in England at Brisons Veor, Cape Cornwall, and NDT Broadgate,

developing a musical theater project entitled The Only Way Out. David's work has been developed at multiple stages including living room shares, table workshops, residencies, readings, concerts, commissions, and productions. Proud member of The Dramatists Guild and ASCAP. David-maglione.me

ABOUT VOX THEATER

Vox Theater was founded in 2012 as an ensemble dedicated to making new work and facilitating artistic collaboration between Dartmouth alumni. VoxLab is our annual residency at Dartmouth College. During the week-long retreat in Hanover, alumni artists develop their works-in-progress in collaboration with current undergraduates. Our goals are to create a space for alumni to experiment, immerse the students in the process of creating new work, and build a more connected community for alumni in the arts.

www.voxtheater.org

VOXLAB 2022 STAFF



Nicolle Allen '16, is a tailor and costume designer based in New York City. She works in TV, Film, and Theater. She worked most recently as the Wardrobe Supervisor of *The Amber Ruffin Show*, and as a tailor on both *The Gilded Age*, and *Saturday Night Live*. She is a producer of VoxLab.



Matthew Cohn '08, is a New York-based, interdisciplinary artist. His work combines printmaking, photography, text, music, and sculpture in the pursuit of creating new theatrical forms. He is also an actor and audiobook narrator. He is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Vox Theater, and a producer of VoxLab.

Department of Theater Staff

Director of Theater	Jamie Horton
Department Chair	Rebecca Biron
Production Manager	Brianna Parry
VoxLab Photographer.....	Rob Strong
Assistant Technical Director.....	Scott Henkels
Master Electrician.....	Janine Woods Thoma
Costume Shop Manager.....	Bethany Padrón
Cutter/Draper.....	Anna Winter
Department Administrator.....	Sharonna R. Henderson
Summer Theater Intern.....	Lila Hovey '23

Theater 65: Summer Theater Lab

Robert Abel '24
Melyanet Espinal '24
John Heaphy '24
Elda Kahssay '24
David Katz '24
Lexy Piton '24
Omala Synder '24

Professors: Carol Dunne and Rob Grant

DEPARTMENT OF THEATER
UPCOMING SUMMER 2022 EVENTS

The 2022 Frost & Dodd Student Play Festival

July 29-30

The Bentley Theater

MURDERBALLAD

by Lila Hovey '23

directed by Carol Dunne

July 29 * 8 pm

Tell Me More, Tell Me More

by Katie Orenstein '22

directed by Rob Grant

July 30 * 8 pm

coming later this summer:

The 31st Annual
New York Theatre Workshop Residency at Dartmouth
LORENA: A Tabloid Epic

bala.fruta./bullet.fruit.

I LOVE YOU SO MUCH I COULD DIE

Visit our website
for more information about the
Department of Theater Summer Events