

the bacchae



Letter From the Program Coordinator

Dr. Troy Comeau



Welcome to the 2020-2021 season of the Pittsburg State Theatre. As we move forward, one thing that the year has taught us is that change is inevitable. The beginning of this academic year the Department of Communication came together to celebrate the retirement of Dr. Cynthia Allan who served as Director of Theatre for over two decades.

We are very fortunate to have had Dr. Allan's vision and leadership over this program during those years. Thanks in part to that vision, we are pleased to announce in July that Dr. Megan Westhoff will be leading our program for years to come. I hope you join me in welcoming Dr. Westhoff into this role and continue to enjoy the unique and entertaining productions we have grown to love from Pittsburg State Theatre.

One immediate change that Dr. Westhoff has had to oversee is the new format of our "virtual productions" that were needed during the global pandemic. From an academic standpoint, I'm very proud of how our Theatre and Media Production students have come together to give our audiences the same quality experience they have come to expect.

This year's season opens on October 22-25 with the "virtual production" of *The Bacchae* directed by Mr. Linden Little. Conceived as a staged reading in a rock 'n' roll style, this reimagining envisions the god Dionysus as a pop star begging for the adoration of his hometown.

For our second show on December 3-6, we are pleased to have Dr. Cynthia Allan share her original "virtual production" of *The Windshield and the Bug*, which was postponed from its earlier scheduled date during the 2019-2020 season. This improvisation looks at a time in life when we figure out not everything can go our way.

Our third major production entitled *The Wolves* will be directed by Mr. Gil Cooper on February 25-28. This finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in Drama provides a quick, hilarious, and unflinching look at nine female "warriors" of a girls' indoor soccer team as they navigate struggles of adolescence.

Finally, Dr. Westhoff directs *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* from April 22-25. This 2013 Tony Award for Best Play follows a strained sibling relationship that is further complicated by a cleaning lady who predicts the future, a star-struck neighbor, and a disastrous costume party.

We appreciate your support of Pittsburg State Theatre and hope you enjoy this season's productions.



Director of Theatre
Dr. Megan Westhoff

While I am not new to Pitt State or the Theatre Program, I fill a big void as Dr. Cynthia Allan deservedly retired this past summer. While the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for the theatre community, I look forward to working with my fellow artists to navigate the changes that are happening in theatre to create the best possible experiences for our students. I have always known that theatre artists, scholars, students, and patrons are unique, but during this year, I have been continually reminded that this special community of people remains resilient, creative, and passionate. In whatever way we can continue to create theatre, on with the show!

Director Note

Linden Little

In times of upheaval it is often useful to go back to the beginning. Greek Tragedy marks the beginning of theater and there are still many timely lessons contained in these ancient texts. *The Bacchae* in particular is a call for people to humble themselves and celebrate in joyous ecstasy. While we no longer recognize Dionysus as a deity, we still from time to time must relinquish control to forces greater than our individual point of view. Viruses and hurricanes will surely strike with chaotic regularity. Our task is to embrace the chaos and dance through the trauma as best we can. We are called to be wise like Cadmus and Tiresias and dance despite our age. The alternative is to be like Pentheus, rigid and unmovable. From this static point one can only be torn apart against the forces of chaos.

We have selected a Rock and Roll design style because it neatly encompasses this tension between chaos and reason. Fanatic devotion to a Rock icon is exactly the kind of worship Dionysus would expect were he to stumble into the 21st century. Additionally, the bright clashing patterns of the costumes balance against the limited movement of socially distanced performers. At every turn we have been trying to balance reason and chaos in order to continue through this trying time. I have enjoyed the journey of this production process and invite you to join us in our rock fantasy from the safety and comfort of home.



To the cast and crew,

Break A Leg!

Alpha Psi Omega - Theatre Honor Society
Alpha Epsilon Theta Chapter

President, Scott Ladish

Vice President, Joshua Ramsey

Secretary, Tayler Matthews

Business Manager, Kathryn Huffman



The Chorus speaking together

Costume Design Note

Lisa Quinteros

The Bacchae is OG. It's a tale so old that it hardly seems possible it could relate to today. Humanity has for the most part dismissed the Pantheon of Ancient Greek Gods in favor of newer religions. Yet the connection of human behavior is still the same, for I have no doubt that were Dionysus to be exalted in the 21st century, he would be rockin' out on a stage, on tour, partying hard and basking in the glow of his adoring fans. He is the Elvis, the Beatles, the MJ, Zeppelin, Bowie or Elton of his time, the god of wine and revelry and sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll. Wild Maenads are crazed fangirls rushing to the stage, tearing down barriers and fences, or punks trashing the hotel penthouse suite, leaving a path of fiery destruction and adoration...even as they assure his name dazzles in the lights and headlines. The human perception of what the *world is* may have changed, but humanity itself? Not so much...which is why you can drop *The Bacchae* in almost ANY time, and make it fantastically costuable, and totally interpretable. What a glorius, relatable, human tragedy Euripides' story is, after all. *My* path led me to create a costumed world of characters based on an amalgam of rock-n-roll from the late 20th century. Crazy patterns, mixed colors and bits of glitz, glam, or darkness are blended with choice iconic rock styles and fabrics, creating the new rock fantasy line that is our band. Now showing in your town, for a limited engagement.

Thanks to my crew who helped create, debate and regulate what we have made. You are my rock stars

Evoc!

Makeup and Hair Design Note

Payton Boswell

I was really excited to do the makeup for this production. This was my first time doing hair and makeup for a production. It was a lot of fun coming up with individual looks for each character, each based on a different aspect of rock-n-roll with a hint of emo in some of them. It was loads of fun mixing jam bands, 70/80s rock, and late 90s emo looks. The hardest part of all was definitely the fake head. It took me a while to figure out the best way to execute the project. Overall, I had a lot of fun doing this.

CAMPUS BOOKSTORE



Cadmus reciting a message



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The Bacchae

By Euripides

Director.....Linden Little
Set Design.....Linden Little
Costume Design.....Lisa Quinteros
Makeup and Hair Design.....Payton Boswell

Cast of Characters

Dionysus.....Owen Gray
Pentheus.....Ryan Hightower
Chorus 1.....Lisa Quinteros
Chorus 2.....Miranda Madden
Chorus 3.....Jenna Russell
Tiresias.....Josh Ramsey*
Cadmus.....Trevor Schoenhofer
Agave.....Kathryn Huffman*
Messenger.....Ryan Bennett
2nd Messenger.....Noah Smith*
Attendant/Officer.....James Phillips

Setting

Outside the palace of Thebes & the Theban Forest

Production Crew

Stage Manager.....Tayler Matthews
Assistant Stage Manager.....Scott Ladish*
COVID Compliance Officer.....Scott Ladish*
Costume Construction.....Liberty Vogel, Miranda Madden
Hunter Adamson, Tayler Matthews,*
Trevor Schoenhofer
Set Construction.....Josh Ramsey,* Jeff Ramsey
Props.....Tristan Carson, Scott Ladish
Light Board Operator.....Jeff Ramsey
Sound Board Operator.....Brett Hale
Media Production Producer.....Caleb Wuthnow
Media Production Crew.....Troy Comeau, Sydnie Storm,
Shakota Woolsey, Garrett Hughes

Pitt State Theatre Staff

Production Assistant.....Cooper Dammrich*
PR/Advertising Manager.....Daisy Burns
Graphic Artwork.....April Ahlders
Production Photographer.....Gracelyn Haile

* denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, national theatre honor society



Dionysus proclaiming a message

The logo for Ridings Healthcare features the word "Ridings" in a purple, sans-serif font. To its right is a large green cross symbol. Below the cross is the word "Healthcare" in a purple, sans-serif font. Underneath "Healthcare" is the tagline "Your Direct Care" in a green, cursive font. Below the logo, the text "Patient Memberships Available" is written in a purple, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the phone number "Phone:620-704-5587" is written in a purple, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the website "www.ridingshealthcare.com" is written in a purple, sans-serif font.



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Agave speaking to audience



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A Special Thanks

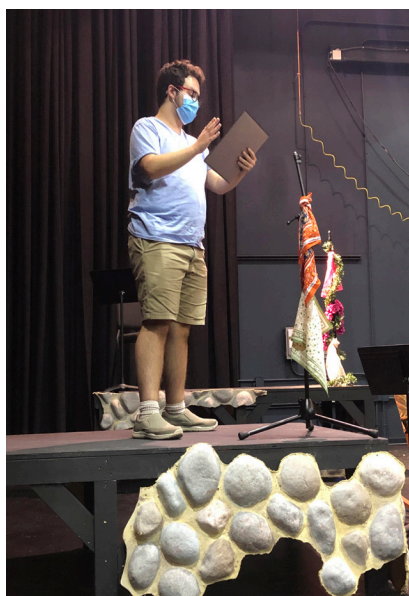
We send a special and sincere thank you to everyone who provided invaluable services, materials, and support during this new season. Our apologies if anyone is inadvertently omitted.

Dr. Cynthia Allan

Pittsburg Community Theatre (PCT)

Mimi Little

Bicknell Family Center for the Arts



Messenger speaking out



Vine prop featuring 2nd messenger