



Theatre and Dance at Wayne
Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance
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theatreanddanceatwayne.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THEATRE AND DANCE AT WAYNE STATE PRESENTS “UNVEILING THE MASK” VIRTUAL THEATRE PRODUCTION WITH 2 SEPARATE COMPANIES EXPLORING SELF-IDENTITY

DETROIT – The Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, a program within the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts at Wayne State University is proud to present “Unveiling the Mask” as a virtual streaming event.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought Theatre and Dance at Wayne Productions to a halt, but thanks to the ingenuity of students, faculty, and staff, have created several experiences for audiences to enjoy at home.

Director Billicia Charnelle Hines and Assistant Director/Choreographer Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney worked closely with the Hilberry Graduate Acting Company and the Freedom Players, part of the undergraduate Black Theatre & Dance Collective in the department, to devise two individual unique productions.

“Unveiling the Mask” explores identity, heritage, and race. Hines explains it as, “Within everyday life, we hide so much... There’s so much that people don’t know about us that is missing but are really important layers of who we are.” Actors in each company brought research and experience from their own lives to tell their own stories.

Both productions present pre-recorded scenes of individuals and groups expressing aspects of themselves that they may not show off to people as much. The scenes are brought together to tell one overall story per production. Audiences can expect a mix of comedic and serious pieces to entertain them throughout each show.

Each performance will start with a live virtual pre-show featuring Hines and Courtney introducing themselves and sharing why they decided to create *Unveiling the Mask*. Directly following each performance stream, there will also be a live post-show talkback with the cast and creative teams. They will answer questions from the audience as well as share their experience of putting the devised production together.

The Hilberry Graduate Company performance is Saturday, February 27 at 6:30 p.m. and the Black Theatre & Dance Collective (Freedom Players) performance is Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. Please be advised that portions of these productions contain adult content which may not be suitable for children.

Tickets in the 2020-2021 season are sold on a Pay-What-You-Can basis. Public tickets for the virtual streams can be purchased online by visiting the department's website, TheatreAndDanceAtWayne.com or call the Box Office at 313-577-2972. The Box Office is available Tuesday through Friday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

About the Wayne State University

Wayne State University is one of the nation's preeminent public research universities in an urban setting. Through its multidisciplinary approach to research and education, and its ongoing collaboration with government, industry and other institutions, the university seeks to enhance economic growth and improve the quality of life in the city of Detroit, state of Michigan and throughout the world. For more information about research at Wayne State University, visit <http://research.wayne.edu/>

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Performance Dates:

Company	Date	Time	Location
Hilberry Graduate Acting Company	Saturday, February 27	6:30 p.m.	Virtual Stream
Black Theatre & Dance Collective	Friday, March 12	7 p.m.	Virtual Stream

Hilberry Graduate Acting Company Cast:

Adam Graber
Alexis Primus
Geoffrey Besser
Jessica Annunziata
Katy Tye
LaRaisha DiEvelyn Dionne
Marcela Garzaro
Michael Underhill
Ryan Bernier
Taurean Hogan

Tommy Favorite
X. Alexander Durden

Black Theatre & Dance Collective Cast:

Amanda Kennedy
Ashley Poulin
Kylie Stone
Kyra Harris
Morgan Listenbee

Creative and Production Team:

Director	Billicia Charnelle Hines
Assistant Director/Choreographer	Dr. RAS Mikey Courtney
Stage Manager	Trever Wilson
Assistant Stage Manager	Lindsey Sigler
Props Master & Costume Designer/Consultant	Tylar Hinton
Marketing Lead	Jessica Kroupa
Marketing Associate	Benjamin Geibel