Welcome to ISU Theatre’s Season of Invitation!

This is no ordinary time. The pandemic presents many challenges for live theatre, and our nation’s centuries old virus of systemic racism presents a challenge for all citizens. For Fall 2020, ISU Theatre is prioritizing the health, safety, and HUMANITY of students, faculty, staff, and community. We commit to leading with GRACE, PATIENCE, RELATIONSHIPS, and LOVE in all we do.

ISU Theatre’s “Season of Invitation” is an opportunity to reimagine theatre and all of humanity.

We will perform in innovative spaces this fall. Yet while Fisher Theater goes dark, the show absolutely goes on...through the thrilling invention and dazzling creativity of ISU Theatre students, faculty, and staff. As the “room where it happens” becomes the “ZOOM where it happens,” we invite you to join us on the journey to discover new realms of performance.

Our productions this fall focus in on the local – on our community and our society. While you may not recognize the titles, you will feel the stories in your bones. Much has been lost this year. But so much is waiting to be found. Together, we will imagine new ways of being – as artists, as audiences, as citizens.

The Great Work Begins!

Brad Dell
Director of ISU Theatre
Facing Our Truth: Ten Minute Plays on Trayvon, Race and Privilege
Written by A. Rey Pamatmat, Dan O’Brien, Dominique Morisseau, Mona Mansour, Winter Miller, Marcus Gardley, Tala Manassah, Quetzal Flores

Monologue written and performed by Travis Cooper

Night Vision by Dominique Morisseau
Ayanna ........................................ Hanaa Morrow
Ezra ................................................ Jamal Johnson

Monologue written and performed by Heaven Booker

Some Other Kid by A. Rey Pamatmat
Elissa ................................................ Sydni Lapsley
Owen ................................................ Grant Tetmeyer
Andre ............................................... Jamal Johnson

Monologue written and performed by Sydni Lapsley

Colored by Winter Miller
Blue .................................................. Leah Gebke
Also Blue ......................................... Kaushik Raghavan
Purple ............................................. Mónica Toro Lebrón
Yellow ............................................... Alex Brown
Pink .................................................. Jacob Jones
Red .................................................. Benjamin Nuckolls

Monologue written and performed by Margaret Smith

The Ballad of George Zimmerman
by Dan O’Brien and Quetzal Flores
George Zimmerman .................................. Zach Harvey
Trayvon .............................................. King Keith
Police Officer ..................................... Tiffany Liechty
Guitar ................................................ Travis Cooper

Monologue written and performed by Tiffany Johnson

Dressing by Mona Mansour and Tala Manassah
Mom .................................................. Heaven Booker
Son ..................................................... King Keith
Guitar ................................................ Travis Cooper

Monologue written and performed by Mónica Toro Lebrón

No More Monsters Here by Marcus Gardley
Rebecca ............................................. Tiffany Liechty
Doc ..................................................... Sydni Lapsley
Greatest-Grand/Ookie ......................... Zach Harvey

This program contains adult language and content.
Facing Our Truth: Ten Minute Plays on Trayvon, Race and Privilege is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com.

The videotaping or making of electronic or other audio and/or visual recordings of this production and distributing recordings or streams in any medium, including the internet, is strictly prohibited, a violation of the author(s)’s rights and actionable under United States copyright law. For more information, please visit: https://concordtheatricals.com/resources/protecting-artists

ISU Theatre is funded by Student Government and supported by the Transforming Liberal Arts and Sciences Endowment’s Theatre Excellence Fund. This program is supported by the Ames Public Library and the Ames Branch of the NAACP.
Production Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Manager</td>
<td>Will Coeur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Director</td>
<td>Natalie Hining</td>
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<td>Costume Shop Supervisor</td>
<td>Doris Nash</td>
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<td>Stage Manager</td>
<td>Alex Brown</td>
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<td>Assistant Stage Manager</td>
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<td>Margaret Smith</td>
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<td>Stage Crew</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Meylor, Theodore White</td>
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<td>Wardrobe Crew</td>
<td>Opal Rustad, Abigail Fisher</td>
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<td>Light Board Operator</td>
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<td>T-Shirt Graphic Designer</td>
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<td>Costume Shop Assistants</td>
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<td>Master Carpenter</td>
<td>Jobe Fee</td>
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<td>Jess Fenton, Peter Loveland, Courtney Sabotta, Piper Smith</td>
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<td>Prop Master</td>
<td>Megan Hamilton</td>
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<td>Nichole Maitlen, Aimee Wallner</td>
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<td>Samuel Huhn, TJ Mack, Jackson Newhouse, Rachel Ward</td>
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<td>Office Assistants</td>
<td>Heaven Booker, Mónica Toro Lebrón</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publicity and Marketing</td>
<td>Stacey Maifeld, Alyson O’Hara, Devin Palmer</td>
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2020/2021 ISU Theatre Faculty/Staff

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Department of Music and Theatre</th>
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<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
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Donald Simonson – Chair

Brad Dell – Director of Theatre, Directing, Script Analysis

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty/Staff</th>
<th>Position/Responsibilities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tiffany Antone</td>
<td>Acting, Oral Interpretation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leslie Bennett</td>
<td>Acting, Actor’s Voice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Will Coeur</td>
<td>Lighting Design, Theatre Technology, Production Manager</td>
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<td>Natalie Hining</td>
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<td>Tiffany Johnson</td>
<td>2020-2021 Guest Artist in Residence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charissa Menefee</td>
<td>Acting, Playwriting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cason Murphy</td>
<td>Acting, Musical Theatre, Performing Arts</td>
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<td>Doris J. Nash</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Petefish-Schrag</td>
<td>Acting, Theatre History, Puppetry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly Marie Schaefer</td>
<td>Makeup and Hair Design, Costume</td>
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<td>Lorey Marie Schaefer</td>
<td>Design and Technology, Theatre and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lori Sulzberger</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Sunderman</td>
<td>Scenic Design, Scenic Artist</td>
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In addition to those listed with production responsibilities, these people helped with set, properties, or costume construction: Caitlin Allen, Lily Arney, Olivia Bastin, Kara Betts, Cameron Bristow, Valentine Chenus, Maxfield Coenen, Lacoda Collier, Camille Danner, Abi Fisher, Arianna Frazee, Brett Garrett, Samuel Huhn, Hannah Johnson, Jacob Laufenberg, Stephanie McClelland, Kaitlyn Meylor, Alexis Murdock, Nakota Newman, Ashley Oxenreider, Kaushik Raghavan, Luke Rothmeyer
2020-2021 ISU Theatre Scholarship Recipients

Patrick Gouran Memorial Performance and Production Scholarship
Calvin Clark

Theatre Program Academic Scholarship
Tiffany Liechty

M. Burton Drexler Memorial Academic Scholarship
Levi Frazier
Samuel Huhn
Matthew Millard
Fredrica V. Shattuck Scholarship
Elise Cameron

Transforming Liberal Arts and Sciences Academic Scholarship
Jacob Jones

Transforming Liberal Arts and Sciences Citizen Artist Scholarship
Annika Baker
Valentine Chenus
Abby Gilk
Sydni Lapsley
Abbigail Markus

Transforming Liberal Arts and Sciences Performance and Production Scholarship
Isabelle Anderson
Heaven Booker
Hannah Brennan
Alex Brown
Khari Brown
Derrick Burrage
Jessica Fenton
Abi Fisher
Shannon Garrells
Zachary Harvey
Kylene Lange
Thomas Mack
Emma McDanel

Emily Oldham
Kathryn Ripley
Tiffany Waggoner
Bethmari Márquez Barreto
Lena Menefee-Cook
Jonathan O'Neill Rojas
Roger Rivera
Keith Norman
Morgan Reetz
Logan Roling
Peyton Schatz
John Scordato
Ellie Seaton
Maggie Smith
Neil Smithson
Cameron Thrap
Mónica Toro Lebrón
Scyler Torrey
Andrew Vanderbilt

The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KC ACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.
DIRECTOR AND CAST NOTES

"It’s been an incredible journey watching these students and this cast grow so quickly over a short period of time. They are learning that to be a good performer and storyteller you must first fully understand the story you are telling. That is the challenge to every performing artist as we strive to take the words of a script off the page and allow it to live in real time and space.

Our cast has learned that in order to pose the question of Facing Our Truth to an audience, you must also face your own truths. I hope the audience can decide to see themselves in these stories, in ways that challenge them to have a powerful meeting with themselves on their personal perspectives, which may, in fact, be biased.”
Tiffany Johnson, Director

“There are no filters in this play. It gives you the cold, hard truth of the world. After watching this play, I want people to understand that the world is not as black and white as they might think.”
Mónica Toro Lebrón, Purple

“In this process, I discovered how to connect while confronting a story that focuses on a situation I have never had to deal with before.”
Grant Tetmeyer, Owen

“I hope that my community knows that their lives matter, and that no matter how crazy the world gets, you can always stick up for change.”
King Keith, Trayvon and Son

“This story gives the audience a deep reflection of their own biases. I hope it can help lead to an open discussion about race and equality.”
Jacob Jones, Pink

“I find the fact that all the characters in “Colored” are solid colors and not [specific] races very thought provoking. I hope [the audience members] think about their internal biases and privilege.”
Kaushik Raghavan, Also Blue

“Even if people argue about subjects that are potentially life or death, they can still love each other in the end.”
Jamal Johnson, Ezra and Andre

“I discovered that I’m not as strong as I think I am and that’s okay. You need to allow yourself to reach for help when you need it; you can’t grow otherwise.”
Zach Harvey, George Zimmerman, Greatest-Grand and Ookie

“I discovered how to see individuals in a non-binary way. Everyone has a story. That story is unique in every way, and everyone deserves to have that story told.”
Benjamin Nuckholls, Red

“It is fascinating to see how the conversation develops between the two characters and what they are more focused on and worried about based on their unique backgrounds and perspectives.”
Hannah Morrow, Ayanna and Green

“The most intriguing part of bringing this story to life is the pertinence. I am very hopeful that this will reach new ears to listen and sympathize with the pain felt by so many in our community.”
Tiffany Liechty, Rebecca and Police Officer
Who’s Who in the Cast & Crew

Heaven Booker (Mom) is a junior from Des Moines, Iowa, studying Performing Arts with an emphasis in Musical Theatre, Acting, and Directing. She is an ISU Theatre Engagement Ambassador and Office Assistant. This is her fourth production at ISU, the first being The Food Monologues, but she has been a part of many other productions such as Bring It On, 42nd Street, Shrek: the Musical, and Hairspray. She was also Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar. She intends to follow her dreams to perform professionally and to continue with promoting awareness of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the theatre industry once she graduates! She wants to thank everyone that she worked with on this production, and hopes to inspire many. She hopes you enjoy the show!

Alex Brown (Stage Manager, Yellow) "Brownie" is one awkward yet cool person. He is a senior from Des Moines, Iowa, majoring in Performing Arts with a minor in Journalism. Brownie is hyped to be able to stage manage again and work with this incredible team of artists. Some of his favorite productions he has been a part of include Of The Deep, Our Community Carol, Ghost Bike and Mauritius. Brownie hopes that you enjoy the show and hopes that the plays move you in some way, he would also like to thank everyone who has supported him this far!

Will Coeur (Production Manager) is a theatrical designer specializing in Lighting, Projection, and Sound Design. Will graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater from Southern Illinois University, and received his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Lighting Design from Western Illinois University. Will has worked in theatres of all shapes and sizes around the country, and is constantly trying to stay on the cutting edge of theatre including serving as the primary alpha tester for new theatre-focused softwares. Outside of design Will focuses his efforts on automating systems and processes for how we approach theatre to improve efficiency primarily through creating integrated media control systems that can fire all cues from a single control station. Favorite designs include Into the Woods (McLeod Summer Playhouse), Tosca and La Traviata (Opera Southwest), and Aladdin (Fulton Theatre). Will would like to thank his family and friends for their love and support, especially his Wonder Wife, Sarah. www.coeurdesigns.net.

Travis Cooper (Monologue Performer, Musician) is a Theatre student at Kirkwood Community College, where he recently appeared in Antigone. Originally from Ames, Iowa, he acted and designed for Story Theater Company for several years and previously appeared on the Iowa State University Theatre stage in Climate Change Theatre Action: Lighting the Way.

Quetzal Flores (Writer) is a Grammy® Award winning East LA Chicano rock group, now celebrating its 20-year anniversary, Quetzal is the collaborative project of Quetzal Flores (guitar), Martha González (lead vocals, percussion), Tylana Enomoto (violin), Juan Pérez (bass), Peter Jacobson (cello), and Alberto Lopez (percussion). The musical ensemble is influenced by an East LA rock soundscape composed of Mexican ranchera, cumbia, salsa, rock, R&B, folk, and fusions of international musics, and also one whose political vision is based in social activism, feminism, and the belief that there is radical potential in expressive culture. During the past two decades, the musical force of Quetzal has created a unique cultural platform that has sounded against conditions of oppression and marginalization. On the twentieth anniversary of their first flight, Quetzal introduces us to another sphere of being, one that challenges us to reimagine human life in relation to the other forms of life that we are so often connected to and through.

Marcus Gardley (Writer) is a poet-playwright. He was the 2012 James Baldwin Fellow and the 2011 PEN Laura Pels award winner for Mid-Career Playwright. The New Yorker describes Gardley as “the heir to Garcia Lorca, Pirandello and Tennessee Williams.” His play The House that Will Not
Stand was commissioned and produced by Berkeley Rep and had subsequent productions at Yale Rep and the Tricycle Theater in London. He is an ensemble member playwright at Victory Gardens Theater where his play The Gospel of Loving Kindness was produced in March and where he won the 2015 BTAA award for best play. In 2014, his saga The Road Weeps, the Well Runs Dry about the migration of Black Seminoles (a tribe of African American and First Nation People) from Florida to Oklahoma had a national tour. He has had numerous productions some of which, include: Every Tongue Confess at Arena Stage starring Phylicia Rashad and directed by Kenny Leon and On The Levee which, premiered in 2010 at Lincoln Center Theater 3. He is the recipient of the 2011 Aetna New Voice Fellowship at Hartford Stage, the Hellen Merrill Award, a Kellsering Honor and the Gerbode Emerging Playwright Award. He holds an MFA in Playwriting from the Yale Drama School and is a member of The Dramatists Guild. Gardley is a professor of Theater and Performance Studies at Brown University.

Leah Gebeke (Blue) is a junior in Public Relations at Iowa State University from White Bear Lake, Minnesota. This is her first-ever ISU production, but she has participated in past performances like Antigone in Munich and Candid at White Bear Lake High School. She is very excited to be working with the cast and crew and take part in this powerful project.

Megan Hamilton (Props Designer) is a senior in Animal Ecology at Iowa State. She is originally from Allen, Texas. She has been working in the Props Department for the last three years and has led as the Props Master since the fall. She worked on productions such as On the Horizon, Our Community Carol, Orpheus in the Underworld, and This is Not a Pipe Dream.

Zach Harvey (Zimmerman, Greatest Grand/Ookie) is a freshman studying Performing Arts at Iowa State from Huxley. He mainly works making commission as an artist during the school year. His first show was through Ballard High School in Into the Woods as a freshman. He has been in many other shows since then such as Bonnie & Clyde: The Musical, The Little Mermaid: The Musical, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and The Last Five Years. As the warmer weather hits, he hopes to spend a lot more time outside.

Natalie Hining (Technical Director) is a graduate from the University of South Dakota, where she received her MFA in Theatre Design and Technologies, specializing in Scenic Design. Natalie has worked for several professional theatre companies including The Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, The South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, and the Sioux Empire Theatre.

Jamal Johnson (Ezra, Andre) is a sophomore from Des Moines, Iowa, studying Chemistry with secondary education at Iowa State. He also works as a Cyclone Aide for the University. Jamal has previously worked with the Iowa State Theatre Department in the fall 2019 production of Anonymous. Jamal also has previous acting credits from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines, in such productions as The Lion King, Death of a Salesman, and Jesus Christ Superstar. He intends to continue working with the Iowa State Theatre Department and eventually further his acting career.

Tiffany Johnson (Director) is the Artistic Director of Pyramid Theatre Company in Des Moines and ISU Theatre’s 2020-2021 Artist in Residence funded by the Transforming Liberal Arts and Sciences Endowment.Her acting work include Good People (Stagewest 2013); The Jack Trice Story (Juneteenth 201); Clybourne Park (Stagewest 2014); Fences (DSM Social Club 2014); The Mountaintop (Westminster Presbyterian-Intergal Arts 2015); Silent Victory (Pyramid Theatre Company 2015); and Amen Corner (Pyramid Theatre Company 2017). She was recognized by Broadway World as the 2014 best actress in Des Moines, IA with her role as Rose in Fences directed by Ken-Matt Martin. She then stepped into the realm of Directing and Production working as the Associate Director on the 2015 production of A Soldier’s Play produced by the Des Moines Social Club.In August of 2015, Tiffany became one of the founding members of Pyramid Theatre Company, which was established to serve as gateway to the arts and to enhance the experience by illuminating the presence of Black artists and providing opportunity for more diverse artistic expression. Tiffany made her
ALWAYS find room for HAPPINESS. Enjoy the show!

Cosmo. No matter what's happening around you, BE STRONG and support our children, to support our communities and to nurture our tomorrows. She intends to use her gifts to make room for others to utilize theirs.

Tiffany is a two-time recipient of the Cloris Leachman Excellence in Theatre Award for Best Direction and Best Play. Tiffany was featured by the Des Moines Register as one of the people to watch for 2019, and by the end of the year the State of Iowa awarded her the 2019 Martin Luther King Jr. Achievement Award for her contributions to art and her commitment to the community utilizing art to educate and enhance the Black experience in Iowa. More than anything Tiffany loves to give of herself to her community as she firmly believes in “as you empty your vessel, your vessel is filled”. She also believes it takes a village to raise our children, to support our communities and to nurture our tomorrows. She intends to use her gifts to make room for others to utilize theirs.

**Jacob Jones (Pink)** is a junior from Redfield studying Performing Arts and Political Science. Before coming to Iowa State, Jacob was involved in theatre at DMACC, where he graduated in August 2020. Jacob is excited for his next performance in *Facing Our Truth* at Iowa State this semester.

**King Keith (Son, Trayvon)** is a sophomore from Washington D.C. here at Iowa State majoring in Performing Arts. This is Keith’s second staged show at Iowa State with his first being *Chasing George Washington* in the fall of 2019. Keith is just thrilled to work with such amazing actors and directors.

**Sdyni Lapsley (Elissa, Doc)** is a senior in Performing Arts at Iowa State from Kansas City, Missouri. This is Sydni’s final mainstage production with ISU Theatre. She would like to thank everyone for all their love and guidance during the past four years. She wouldn’t be who she is today without all their support! Special shoutout to Mama, Tom, and Cosmo. No matter what’s happening around you, BE STRONG and ALWAYS find room for HAPPINESS. Enjoy the show!

**Tiffany Liechty (Rebecca, Officer)** is a senior from Mount Pleasant, majoring in Performing Arts. She is so excited to be participating in *Facing Our Truth*. She has been seen in *Anon(ymous)* and *Dry Land* at Iowa State as well as *Weekend Comedy* at the Des Moines Playhouse during her time here. Tiffany has worked with Story Theater Company as an online instructor for their *Pirate’s Tale* show and would like to further pursue theatre education. Before coming to Iowa State, Tiffany acted in shows at DMACC, including *Mauritius, Comedy of Errors, Love’s Labour’s Lost*, and was an Irene Ryans nominee for her work in *Ghost Bike* and *The Wolves*.

**Thomas Mack (Lighting Designer)**, who usually goes by TJ, is a senior in Technology Systems Management from Milan, IL. He has multiple jobs on campus including TA for the Department of Agriculture, Electrician at Fisher Theatre, and a Fire Inspector for Environmental Health and Safety. TJ has designed a number of shows for ISU theatre and other local venues. He hopes you enjoy ISU’s production of *Facing Our Truth*.

**Tala Manassah (Writer)** is deputy executive director of the Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility, the national leader in school-based social and emotional learning programs. Morningside Center works for a society that is just, peaceful, and truly democratic by working in schools, hand in hand with educators, to make schools joyful, productive spaces where young people develop a rigorous sense of social responsibility. Under her leadership, Morningside Center has undertaken the largest school-based expansion of restorative practices in the U.S. As of December 2014, the program has impacted educators from 95 middle schools and high schools throughout New York City. As a playwright, she has co-written, with Mona Mansour, *The House*, commissioned by NYC’s Noor Theater and the American Institute for Architecture and read as part of their *Building A New* series in March 2012; *The Letter*, a short play that premiered in November 2012 in San Francisco as part of Golden Thread’s ReOrient Festival; and *After*, a full-length play that was produced at Queens College in 2013. Manassah and Mansour were awarded a residency at Berkeley Rep's Ground Floor in 2013 to develop a musical play called *The Wife*. Most recently, they were given an Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan commission to write a play about 1970s Iraq.
Mona Mansour (Writer) premiered her play The Way West in spring of 2014 at Steppenwolf, directed by Amy Morton. The play received the 2013 Sky Cooper New American Play Prize from Marin Theatre Company, where it will get its West Coast premiere in April 2015. The play received a BareBones workshop at the Lark Play Development Center (directed by Linsay Firman), where Mona was a Fellow in 2012. The Hour of Feeling (directed by Mark Wing-Davey) received its world premiere in the 2012 Humana Festival in Louisville. Following that, it was part of the High Tide Festival in the U.K. as part of the Rifle Hall plays. Urge for Going (directed by Hal Brooks) received a LAB production in the 2011 season at the Public Theater, and had its West Coast premiere at San Francisco’s Golden Thread (directed by Evren Odcikin). The Vagrant, the third play in the trilogy, was commissioned by the Public Theater and workshoped at the 2013 Sundance Theater Institute with Mark Wing-Davey directing. Mona was a member of the Public Theater’s Emerging Writers Group, a Core Writer at Minneapolis’ Playwrights’ Center, and is now a member of New Dramatists. Other plays include Across the Water, Girl Scouts of America, and Broadcast Yourself (part of Headlong Theater’s Decade). With Tala Manassah she has written The House, for Noor Theatre, After, and The Letter, which premiered in November 2012 at Golden Thread’s ReOrient Festival; Mona and Tala were in residence at Berkeley Rep’s Ground Floor, where they worked on a musical play called The Wife. They were given an Ensemble Studio Theatre/Sloan commission to write a play about 1970s Iraq. Other commissions include Unseen, a play for South Coast Rep’s inaugural Crossroads program. She is the recipient of the 2012 Whiting Award and 2014 Middle East America Playwright Award.

Winter Miller (Writer) is an award-winning playwright and founding member of the Obie-recognized collective 13 Playwrights. She is best known for her drama In Darfur which premiered at The Public Theater, followed by a standing room only performance at their 1800-seat Delacorte Theater in Central Park, a first for a play by a woman. In Darfur won the “Two-Headed Challenge” commission from the Guthrie and the Playwrights Center and has been produced nationally. She traveled with her former boss, New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof to the Sudan border to research on the ground. Ms. Miller’s full-length plays include: The Penetration Play, Paternity, Seed, The Arrival, and the musical Amandine. Fellowships and residencies include: Sundance, Hedgebrook, Civilians R&D, Core Writer in residence with the Playwrights Center, Blue Mountain Center, Voice&Vision, and the Cherry Lane Mentor Project. Commissions include: New Black Fest, Joe’s Pub, CenterStage America, The Gun Control Action Project, Keen Company, Theatre Askew and Voices of Uganda. She holds an MFA from Columbia University and graduated cum laude from Smith College.

Dominique Morisseau (Writer) is the author of The Detroit Project (A 3-Play Cycle), which includes the following plays: Skeleton Crew (Atlantic Theater Company), Paradise Blue (Signature Theatre), and Detroit ’67 (Public Theater, Classical Theatre of Harlem and NBT). Additional plays include: Pipeline (Lincoln Center Theatre), Sunset Baby (LAbyrinth Theatre); Blood at the Root (National Black Theatre) and Follow Me To Nellie’s (Premiere Stages). She is also the Tony-nominated book writer on the new Broadway musical Ain’t Too Proud – The Life and Times of the Temptations (Imperial Theatre). Dominique is alumna of The Public Theater Emerging Writer’s Group, Women’s Project Lab and Lark Playwrights Workshop, and has developed work at Sundance Lab, Williamstown Theatre Festival and Eugene O’Neill Playwrights Conference. She most recently served as Co-Producer on the Showtime series Shameless (3 seasons). Additional awards include: Spirit of Detroit Award, PoNY Fellowship, Sky-Cooper Prize, TEER Trailblazer Award, Steinberg Playwright Award, Audelco Awards, NBFT August Wilson Playwriting Award, Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama, Obie Award (2), Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellowship, Variety’s Women of Impact for 2017-18, and a recent MacArthur Genius Grant Fellow.

Hannah Morrow (Ayanna, Green) is a junior from Chicago, Illinois, studying Public Relations with minors in event management, environmental studies and performing arts at Iowa State University. Although this show is her theatre debut, Hannah has some experience working as an extra on various TV shows that film in Chicago. Hannah is very excited to take the stage alongside the rest of the cast to put on a meaningful performance.
Benjamin Nuckolls (Red) is a junior from Early, Iowa, majoring in Psychology and minoring in English. This is his first show with ISU Theater. He has been in 2 shows at the Ames Community Theater and has been cast in an upcoming feature film Bits & Pieces. Benjamin is more than excited to be a part of this spectacular play and is planning on going to graduate school to study acting and continue his passion for the craft of storytelling.

Dan O’Brien (Writer) is a playwright, poet, and librettist. His play The Body of an American received the inaugural Edward M. Kennedy Prize, the Horton Foote Prize for Outstanding New American Play, the PEN Center USA Award for Drama, the L. Arnold Weissberger Award, and was shortlisted for an Evening Standard Drama Award in the UK. The Body of an American premiered at Portland Center Stage, directed by Bill Rauch, and received its European premiere in an extended run at the Gate Theatre in London and Royal & Derngate in Northampton, England, directed by James Dacre, and will premiere off-Broadway at Primary Stages in 2016. Previous plays by O’Brien have premiered at Second Stage Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Geva Theatre Center, and elsewhere. O’Brien’s debut poetry collection, War Reporter (Hanging Loose Press, 2013; CB Editions, 2013), received the UK’s prestigious Fenton-Aldeburgh First Collection Prize, and was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. A new poetry collection entitled Scarsdale was published in 2014 by CB Editions in the UK, and in 2015 by Measure Press in the US. O’Brien’s libretto for Jonathan Berger’s Visitations was commissioned by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Visitations premiered at Bing Concert Hall at Stanford University in 2013, directed by Rinde Eckert, and received its New York City premiere at the Prototype Festival in 2014. Originally from New York, O’Brien lives in Los Angeles with his wife and daughter.

Doris Nash (Costume Designer) is a 1991 graduate of Iowa State with a degree in clothing and textiles; Doris has been the ISU Theatre costume shop supervisor since 1989. She has designed costumes for several productions, including A Christmas Carol, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum, Kiss Me, Kate, Treasure Island, Little Women, Orpheus in the Underworld, and Anonymous. Her summer employment has been with theaters such as the Santa Fe Opera, Emporia State University Summer Theatre, and the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. Doris is an Iowa native and sings with Good Company and Ames Choral Society. She also has a BM in vocal performance from Coe College. In 2007, she bought a house, and shares it with a very spoiled cat! In 2008 she realized a lifelong dream and appeared on Jeopardy!, winning one game.

A. Rey Pamatmat (Writer) A. Rey Pamatmat’s play after all the terrible things I do premiered at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre and runs at next at The Huntington Theatre in 2014 – ’15. His play A Power Play; Or, What’s-its-name was presented at the 2014 O’Neill Playwrights Conference, his second residency there after Thunder Above, Deeps Below in 2008. Rey’s play Edith Can Shoot Things and Hit Them premiered at the Humana Festival, received the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Citation and nominations for 2013 GLAAD Media and Lambda Literary Awards, and was featured at Guadalajara’s 2014 Semana Internacional de la Dramaturgia. Productions: Thunder Above, Deeps Below (Second Generation), A Spare Me (Waterwell), DEVIANT (the Vortex), High/Limbo/High (HERE); awards: ‘12/’13 Hodder Fellowship, ’11/’12 PoNY Fellowship, Princess Grace Award, Princess Grace Special Projects Grant, NYFA Playwriting Fellowship, E.S.T./Sloan Grant. Rey is Co-Director of the Ma-Yi Writer’s Lab. BFA: NYU, MFA: Yale School of Drama.

Kaushik Raghavan (Also Blue) is a freshman from Iowa City, majoring in Performing Arts. This is Kaushik’s third show with ISU Theatre, and he is really excited to be a part of such an influential show. He wants to thank Tiffany Johnson for casting him and all the people behind the stage for their incredible work.

Margaret Smith (Assistant Director, Monologue Performer) is a senior in international studies and public relations at Iowa State from Minburn, Iowa. This is her ninth production at Iowa State. Margaret is so excited to be able to share the hard work and talents of the cast of Facing Our Truth.
Grant Tetzmeyer (Owen) is a junior in Performing Arts and Journalism at Iowa State from Johnson, Iowa. He had been involved in a number of ISU Theater productions as an actor, designer and writer. Grant is excited to perform such a powerful piece in a time when it is needed.

Mónica Toro Lebrón (Purple) is a freshman majoring in Performing Arts from Puerto Rico. This is her third major production as a performer, having been able to be part of Perform the Protest, and On the Horizon. Mónica has also worked as a writer for Our Community Carol and costume designer for On the Horizon. She is very excited to be working on this production alongside many amazing and talented people.

Tiffany Waggoner (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior in Performing Arts from Ankeny, Iowa. She has done work backstage on many productions, but she is excited to try her first hand at Assistant Stage Managing. The cast and crew are incredible people and she cannot wait for everyone to see the amazing work that everyone is doing to help ourselves face our truths.

Aimee Wallner (Scenic Designer) is a junior from La Junta, Colorado, majoring in Interior Design with a minor in Performing Arts at Iowa State. After being involved in theatre throughout high school, she wanted to take that passion with her into college and continue to pursue scenic design. Last year she was the assistant designer for 9 to 5 The Musical and is super excited to have the chance to be the lead designer for Facing Our Truth this year.

Rachel Ward (Sound Designer) is a senior in Performing Arts with an emphasis in Musical Theater, and this is her final semester at Iowa State University. Rachel is also an Alumni from The Eugene O’Neill National Theater Institute Musical Theater (Fall ’20). You have probably seen her on stage in First Date as Casey, It’s A Wonderful Life: A Radio Play as Violet as well as many others. She recently wrote and directed “Legacy” for ISU Theatre’s On the Horizon: Festival of Student-Produced Work. Rachel is originally from Minneapolis and is planning on returning to the Twin Cities upon graduation. She sends love to her family and her collaborators on this project.