

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Studio 4

2 P.M.

Dr. David Crespy presents his Fulbright project *Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia: Creating Dramas of Sephardic Spain and Greece* followed by a concert reading of his short horror play, *La Susona*, based on the legends of the Judería (Jewish Quarter) of Old Sevilla.

7:30 P.M.

Enjoy a concert reading of *Las Semillas De La Expulsión*, Dr. Crespy's play set in 1492 Spain.



Theatre

University of Missouri

2 P.M.

***Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia: Creating Dramas of
Sephardic Spain & Greece***

PLAYWRIGHT

Dr. David Crespy

BRIEF INTERMISSION

La Susona

DIRECTOR

Talia Gritzmacher

CAST

Susana Ben Susón Virginia Martinez
Diego Susón Ben Tatum
Narrator (stage directions) Sara Wiley

7:30 P.M.

Las Semillas De La Expulsión

PLAYWRIGHT

Dr. David Crespy

DIRECTOR

Dr. Mechele Leon

CAST

Narrator (stage directions) Andrew Smith
Abraham Senyor/Panagiotis..... Aaron Krawitz
Allegra/Sultana/Doña Benvenidaabarbanel/
Francisco Jiménez De Cisneros/ Jennifer Haselwerdt
Bolisa/queen Isabella/
Christopher Columbia Abigail Klapatauskas
Doudoun/Violante/ Luis De Santangel Suzanne Burgoyne
King Ferdinand José Luis Muñoz Muela
Isaac Abravanel Dan Harrison

MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE CREW AND STAFF

2 p.m. Lecture and Performance

Front of House Staff Cecil Cantrill-Harris,
Jack Kunkel
House Management Andrew Schulte
Light Board Operator Maggie Maher

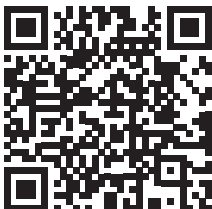
7:30 p.m. Performance

Front of House Staff Alex Drury,
Abigail Henshaw,
Gabriella Lacey,
Zachary Vajda
House Management Andrew Schulte
Light Board Operator Maggie Maher

MU DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE FACULTY

Kevin Brown, Associate Professor
M. Heather Carver, Professor
David Crespy, Professor
Les Gray, Assistant Professor
Mimi Hedges, Department Chair, Associate Teaching Professor
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor
Claire Syler, Associate Professor
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor

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A NOTE FROM DR. DAVID CRESPIY:

In my 2022-23 Fulbright Scholar Award to Spain and Greece, I took on the daunting task of writing six plays, titled *Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia: Six Plays of Sephardic Greece*, about the Spanish roots of the Jewish communities of Thessaloniki and Veria, of which I am a descendent (my father's mother, my Nona, Mary Massarano Crespin was from Thessaloniki, and my Nono, Isaac Morris Crespin was from Veroia). This project was built upon a previous 2018 Fulbright project titled *Madre de Israel: Three Plays of Jewish Salonika*.

The experience of digging into my own heritage as a Sephardic Jew and as a playwright has been an ongoing project which was initiated by my colleague Dr. Suzanne Burgoyne, when she directed my play *Tekíya*, a dramedy about competing forms of magic, that of Wicca and of the Kabbalah—Jewish mysticism. In addition, I have been exploring a new kind of dramaturgy in my plays, based on the logic of dreams, that I call dreamwrighting, and so both of the plays you'll see today, *Las Semillas de La Expulsión* and *La Susona* are built upon dreamwork, a technique of exploring associational logic tied to elements of chance art that I wrote about in my book *Dreamwork for Dramatic Writing: Dreamwrighting for Stage and Screen*, which was published this fall with Brill.

I am deeply grateful to my Fulbright hosts at the University of Seville in Spain including Ramón Espojo Romero, Vicente Chacón Carmona, and Josefa Fernández Martín and at Aristotle University, Dr. Giorgos Antoniou, Dr. Tatiani Rapatzikou, and Zoe Detsi for their support of this project. I'm also very grateful to Dr. Mimi Hedges, our department chair, for helping make this evening possible, and to my esteemed colleague from the University of Kansas, Dr. Mechele Leon, who shares my heritage, and has been collaborating with me as a director of *Las Semillas*, as well as my doctoral advisee, Talia Gritzmacher, the director of *La Susona*. Much of what I wrote about in my hexalogy *Mi Corazón Español Vive Ahora En Grecia* is tied to two traumatic events experience by my Sephardic ancestors, the Expulsion of the Jews in Spain, and the Holocaust in Greece, which devastated the Jewish populations in both countries. My work has been to revive, resuscitate, and reinvigorate the literature, art, music, and food of the world of my Nona and Nono, and to bring to life, through the magic of drama, a culture that like the language of Judaeo-Espagnol (also known as Ladino), struggles, but is still vibrant in both the United States and in Israel in so many ways today.

A special thank you to Dr. Les Gray, who has hosted Dr. Leon in their home.



Theatre

University of Missouri