Comedies in Concert

Studio 4
June 1 and June 14
7:00 pm
Comedies in Concert

JUNE 1

GOLDILOCKS THE BABYSITTER
by Jillian Manners, directed by David Crespy

Cast
MOTHER BEAR...........................................Kirstin Bellman
FATHER BEAR...........................................Michael Frimpong
LITTLE BEAR...........................................Robert Dresselhaus
GOLDILOCKS...........................................Abi Mirikitani
STAGE DIRECTIONS...............................Michael Emfinger

THE OLD WOMAN WHO SWALLOWED A SCALPEL
by Abi Mirikitani, directed by David Crespy

Cast
CALEB....................................................Michael Frimpong
DR. FOREMAN.........................................Robert Dresselhaus
AMI........................................................Isabel Fagre
NURSE 1................................................Briar Roll
NURSE 2................................................Reagan Watson
WOMAN (FRANNY JOE) / NURSE 3........Kirsten Bellman
OLD MR. LADY..........................................Dan Harrison
OLD MRS. LADY........................................Lena Ajans
STAGE DIRECTIONS...............................Dr. Joy Powell

JUNE 14

FINDING TRUE LOVE
by Lewis Shilane, directed by David Crespy

Cast
ROXANNE...............................................Lena Ajans
CLEONA...............................................Meg Phillips Crespy
MALICIA...............................................Roberta Shilane
OTTO..................................................Robert Dresselhaus
REGINALD...........................................Christopher Oliver
SIMON................................................Michael Frimpong
STAGE DIRECTIONS...............................Ben Prentiss

TABLE TALK
by Maddie Bunten, directed by David Crespy

Cast
OLIVIA...................................................Lena Ajans
WILLIAM...............................................Christopher Oliver
AMANDA...............................................Dr. Joy Powell
STAGE DIRECTIONS...............................Ben Prentiss

THE PAPA CASTLE AND THE MAMA GARDEN
written and directed by David Crespy

Cast
STEPHANY..............................................Meg Phillips Crespy
IRA.....................................................Christopher Oliver
STAGE DIRECTIONS...............................Dr. Joy Powell

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The Comedies-in-Concert series was inspired by the notion of MU’s Summer Repertory Theatre itself—to give our student and faculty playwrights a taste of what it’s like to entertain a summer audience outside of our regular academic theatre season.

Beginning in 2001 with Kate Berneking Kogut’s Carol and the Cowboy, we’ve presented several new comedies in concert performance every summer for the last twenty years, and we give ourselves a particular challenge—to stage the plays as concert performances in just one day. Any actor, director, or playwright who has been involved with the SRT Comedies-in-Concert can tell you, it’s a dizzying day of theatre. This year, we are particularly pleased to be back to live theatre after the pandemic of 2020-21.

This morning we read through the play—just to get our bearings, explore the characters, and raise questions with the playwright. We shared our costumes and props ideas—and then tonight we perform the show for you, with no other rehearsal, no tech, just a script in hand, stools, music stands, and a small prayer. And magically, it always works! A mystery of the theatre—dosed with just a drop of adrenalin!

This year we’re very pleased to feature five new plays that are written for young audiences. On June 1st we’ll feature two plays: Jillian Manner’s Goldilocks the Babysitter, which is a spirited romp through the old fairy tale. Jillian is a wonderful undergraduate actress and writer whose work has been featured at the Missouri Playwrights Workshop. And we’re presenting Abi Mirikitani’s devilishly funny, The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Scalpel—a satire based on the beloved children’s song. Abi was a national finalist in the 2021 Gary Garrison Ten-Minute Play Award through the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and is a wonderful performer as well (as you’ll see in Goldilocks).

On June 14th we’ll present three short plays: Finding True Love by Lewis Shilane, a provocative spin on the traditional princess/prince fairy tale. Lewis is a non-traditional student—a retired primary care physician from Joplin, Missouri, who has taken several dramatic writing programs recently at Mizzou. The second play of the evening will be Table Talk by Maddie Bunten, a refreshing and sensitive comedy on the reality of coming out to one’s parents. Maddie is a talented undergraduate playwright who has also been busy in our technical theatre and design program. And finally, we’ll be sharing my short play, The Papa Castle and the Mama Garden, which takes a fairytale look at successful co-parenting.

We’ve had a wild and wooly ride with the Summer Rep Comedies-in-Concert with sex farces, dark comedies, Show-Me-Shows, and improv troupes, and we’ve been very grateful to have such a wonderfully supportive, and adventurous audience to join us. Please enjoy our comedies this summer, whipped up to a froth in a single day, and just duck if you see an actor’s shoe or miscellaneous prop flying your way—it’s all in the spirit of comedy!

—David Crespy

MU Department of Theatre Faculty
Kevin Brown, Associate Professor
M. Heather Carver, Professor, Department Chair
David Crespy, Professor
Les Gray, Postdoctoral Fellow
Mimi Hedges, Visiting Professor
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor
Claire Syler, Assistant Professor
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor
Comedies in Concert Technical Crew and Staff

Artistic Director.................................................Heather Carver
Director of LCSRT..............................................Joy Powell
Director of Production........................................Mimi Hedges
Head of Costumes.............................................Marc W. Vital II
Technical Director.............................................Joseph Lass
Production Stage Manager.................................Babs Randazzo
Stage Manager................................................Sydney Lewis
Lighting Design...............................................Jake Price
Video Manager.................................................Andre Steward
Video Assistants..............................................Katrin Hunter, Ian O’Neill
Technical Assistants........................................Eliza Brooks, Isabel Fagre,
.................................................................Katrin Hunter, Sydney Lewis,
.................................................................Jake Price, Kellen Sapp,
.................................................................De’Janna Scales-Hand
Costume Shop....................................................Lida Alftoorney
Costume Assistants...........................................Maddie Bunten, Elizabeth Randall
Production Workshop Students.........................Hannah Bagley, Joey Belmore,
.................................................................Anthony Blatter, Amanda Clifton,
.................................................................Liza Mahacek, Juan Martinez
Academic Advisors..........................................Alex Anderson, Jennifer Bloss
Box Office Manager..........................................Jabarbara Jennings
Assistant Box Office Manager..............................Josh Saboorizadeh
Business Affairs..............................................Pat Garmon
Graphic Design.................................................Dory Colbert

Scholarship Recipients 2021-2022

Richard And Patricia Wallace Endowment For The Arts
Liza Mahacek, Dacia Slater

Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship
Maddie Bunten, De’Janna Scales-Hand

Terry Perkins Comic Actress Scholarship
Payton Woodruff

Sol Feinstone Technical Theatre Award
Ben Prentiss, Juan Martinez

John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship
Ayanna Taylor

Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship
Jack Fulkerson, Raynesha Green

James M. Miller Musical Theatre Scholarship
Dacia Slater, Anthony Blatte

Richard M. Hennessy Scholarship
Reggie Coleman, Averey Campbell

George C. Scott Memorial Acting Scholarship
Joel Rodriguez

Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship
Abby Land, Jake Price

Dr. Marcia Berry Memorial Scholarship
Symonne Sparks

Frances McCurdy Memorial Scholarship
Brandon Riley

Carla Waal Johns Award
Kasey Lynch

MU Theatre Citizenship Award
De’Janna Scales-Hand
Outdoors at Traditions Plaza!

**Comedies in Concert**
in Studio 4
7:00 pm: June 1 and 14

**Outdoors at Traditions Plaza!**
7:00 pm: June 23-26, July 1, 2
2:00 pm: June 26-27, July 3
11:00 am: July 2

**Comedies in Concert**
in Studio 4
7:00 pm: June 30 and July 2

**Outdoors at Traditions Plaza!**
8:00 pm: June 30 and July 2

**Blame it on the Summer Night**
A Benefit Concert for the Dr. Marcia Berry Memorial Scholarship Fund

**Stories matter.**
Come experience the ones we tell.

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