Theatre presents

So Near So Far

Words and Music by Missouri Composer Brett Kristofferson

Directed by Joy Powell and Scott Koonce

7:00 pm September 17 - 27 online presentations
Welcome to our online performance of So Near/So Far, a reprise from this past summer’s Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre!

The online performances in Fall’s line up are the culmination of hours of work by our Mizzou Theatre and Summer Repertory companies. While the Fall 2020 season continues to present us with different obstacles than any other in our history, we are still here, rising to the challenges, and bringing you stories that are worth telling because stories matter.

In our work during the past summer we presented a student-written, brand new musical, All the Spaces. Join us again in October when we will present selections from All the Spaces online.

With So Near/So Far we are thrilled to share with you Dr. Joy Powell and Scott Koonce’s production of 18 songs by Missouri’s own composer, Brett Kristofferson. This is a collection of Brett’s work from many different musicals and cabarets that he has created in his stellar career. We are also very excited to perform two new songs written especially for this show, “There Was a Song” and “The Summer of Our Discontent.”

Thank you for your support of our season and our work as we strive to create an atmosphere that is radically welcoming. A place where all voices can resonate. Though our physical proximity has changed, I know that we stand together for equity, diversity, inclusion and affirmation in all its forms.

Sit back, relax, and enjoy our performance as we proudly present, So Near/So Far.

M. Heather Carver,
Artistic Director and Chair
So Near, So Far

Music and Lyrics by Missouri Composer
Brett Kristofferson

DIRECTORS
SCOTT KOONCE AND JOY POWELL

MUSIC DIRECTOR
BRETT KRISTOFFERSON

VOCAL COACH
SHANNAH RAE

COSTUME DESIGNER
MARC W. VITAL II

SCENIC/VISUALS DESIGNER
MIMI HEDGES

STAGE MANAGER
BABS RANDAZZO

CHOREOGRAPHER
MONIQUE I. JONES

AUDIO ENGINEER
DAVID MYERS

SOUND DESIGNER
ELIZA BROOKS

VIDEO RECORDING AND MIXING
KYLE SHEARRER, ANDRE STEWART, IAN O’NEILL

LIGHTING DESIGNER
VINCENTE WILLIAMS

Cast (in alphabetical order)

Jeffrey Adams
Lafe Arens
Joseph Belmore
Anthony Blatter
Keith Boyer
Quincy Brown
Avery Campbell
Reginald Coleman
Samuel Demuria
Isabel Fagre
Raynesha Green
Rob Hoffman
Cayla Jared
Nathan Le
Laila Lovelady

Kasey Lynch
Dani Major
Kathryn Merck
Shannah Rae
Cydni Robertson
Joel Rodriguez
Noah Rogers
Dacia Slater
Symonne Sparks
Tia Spears
Jason Stanley
Zoë Tyler
Murphy Ward
Allison Whittom
Amariah Woodson
Anna Yannessa

So Near, So Far Production Crew

Properties Artisan: Maggie Dittmer
Sound Assistants: Jake Price, De’Janna Scales-Hand
Master Electrician: Kristopher Hulsey
Production Assistant: Anna Huynh
Assistant Stage Managers: Michael Beverley, Claire Gray
Assistant Properties Artisan: Abby Land
Makeup Designer: Anna Campbell
Assistant Audio Engineer: Eliza Brooks, Rebekah Lass

Partial funding for our productions is provided by Chrisha’s Fund, an endowment established by her parents in memory of Chrisha L. Siebert, BA ’90.
Song List (order subject to change)

“There Was a Song”..........................Keith and Company
“This Love”....................................Zoë, Joey, Raynesha, Noah, and Murphy
“All I Know”....................................Averey
“All That Matters”............................Caleb and Isabel
“The Gospel According to Tammy Faye” (Lyrics by Jeff Dobbins)..................Shannah and Ensemble
“Wide Missouri Sky”........................Kasey
“Lead Me On”.................................Laila, Anthony and Company
“Something in the Way”..................Quincy, Amariah and Rob
“So Near, So Far Away”....................Raynesha and Cydni
“Billy and the Night”.......................Joel
“The Lizzie Borden Rag” (Lyrics by Brent Peterson)..................Dani, Jason and Ensemble
“Every Day Trio”.............................Symonne, Keith and Kasey
“All the Children”............................Dacia
“WTF, Disney”................................Anna, Kathryn, and Shannah
“Brother to Brother”.........................Sam
“This Time”....................................Symonne
“Take One Step”..............................Cayla, Allison, Lafe, Tia, Dakota, Reginald, and Company
“The Summer of Our Discontent”......Jeff, Amariah, and Nathan

Director’s Notes

In these unprecedented times… Joy and I have joked about the excessive amount of times we have heard this phrase on television in the past several months, but it really is the most accurate phrase for our current situation and more specifically for the way you are watching this show. Who would have thought we would rehearse an entire show on Zoom, film most numbers one at a time, and never see or hear the final product until it was all edited together? With so many in the entertainment industry looking for ways to continue to create I’m grateful for the opportunity to work with this group of talented artists, even if it was unusual. I’m also grateful for the chance to tell these stories by one of my favorite composers and friends. I don’t think it’s possible for me to choose a favorite song from the Brett Kristofferson songbook. I love the way the lyrics paint a clear picture and give us a glimmer of hope in every story that he tells. A glimmer of hope is what we need right now. It’s what I need. It may be a long time before live theatre as we know it returns. But isn’t theatre about the memories? So is it ever really far away?

Scott Koonce
Co-Director So Near So Far

To say this the world has turned upside down is an understatement! As we all know, life as has shifted and “normal” is a word that we don’t use anymore. Even with all the changes, more than ever, those of us that call ourselves artists must enact our creative spirits. Humankind needs to be reminded of the power that stories have on our present
and our future. Artists are essential and every single company member are thrilled to bring you So Near So Far. Each of the 18 songs share a unique narrative about the human condition from very funny moments to very serious ones and every kind of moment in between. The journey can be a challenging one, with many setbacks, but if we stick together there is no limit to how far we can go!

Theatre is always born out of a talented and deeply committed group of people coming together to create something that would not be possible for them to construct on their own. This summer has required collaboration at the highest level possible. This company of performers, technicians, staff, production team and designers has worked tirelessly to put together a diverse and exciting season of theatre for you. We feel the need to create now, more than ever before and we want to continue to give our audience the quality performances they have come to expect from Mizzou Theatre. Thank you so much for your support over the years! Here’s to many more!

Joy Powell
Co-Director So Near So Far
Director of the Larry D. Clark Summer Repertory Theatre

Composer’s Notes

2020 has plunged performing artists into strange waters. With venues all over rightly closed to large gatherings we in this community owe Dr. Joy Powell and Dr. Heather Carver a debt of gratitude for seeing ahead of our circumstances and committing to a streaming theatre season. So here we are.

The oldest song in this show is 28 years old. The two newest were written weeks ago. Some are quite specific to the shows for which they were written, with story lines about track running brothers at odds, a student strike to protest conditions at an African American high school in 1951, about Tammy Faye Bakker’s post-scandal rise to promote love and acceptance. My hope for these and everything I put on paper is that they will somewhere get at what it is to push through this life with grit, some humor, some snark, some questioning, some leaning in. We are all of us in this together, like it or not.

Brett Kristofferson
Composer

MU Department of Theatre Faculty
Kevin Brown, Associate Professor
M. Heather Carver, Professor, Department Chair
David Crespy, Professor
Mimi Hedges, Visiting Professor
Joy Powell, Associate Teaching Professor
Claire Syler, Assistant Professor
Marc W. Vital II, Assistant Professor

Chancellor’s Professors
Cheryl Black,
Distinguished Curators’ Professor, Emerita
Suzanne Burgoyne,
Distinguished Curators’ Teaching Professor, Emerita
**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
Stage Managers............................................. Michael Beverley, Claire Gray,
                                                   Babs Randazzo, Zoe Tyler
Properties Assistants................................. Dakota Kinslow, Brittaney Nicholson,
                                                   Alex Sarnecki, De’Janna Scales-Hand
Video Consultant........................................... Kyle Shearrer
Sound Consultant ........................................... David Myers
Company Production Assistants.................... Alex Neuhalfen, Jake Price
Production Assistants .................................... Tricia Neuhalfen, Anna Huynh
Costume Shop Cutter Draper........................... Lida Alftooney
Costume Shop Manager .................................. Fionna Clark
Costume Assistants ....................................... Maddie Bunten, Alex Henja,
                                                   Ben Lindsay, Elizabeth Randall
Make Up....................................................... Anna Campbell
Interns.......................................................... Hannah Lass, Kellen Sapp
Artists-in-Residence................................. Babs Randazzo, Vincente Williams
Academic Advisors...................................... Alex Anderson, Jennifer Bloss
Box Office Manager................................. Jabarbara Jennings
Assistant Box Office Manager...................... Josh Saboorizadeh
Box Office Staff................................. Jacob Blank, Tricia Carver-Horner,
                                          Josh Saboorizadeh,
                                          De’Janna Scales-Hand, Dacia Slater

Business Affairs.............................................. Pat Garmon
Graphic Design............................................. Dory Colbert

**Scholarship Recipients 2020-2021**

Richard And Patricia Wallace Endowment For The Arts
  Jo Shifrin, Arnold Cole
Donovan and Peggy Rhynsburger Scholarship
  Dakota Kinslow, Abby Land
Terry Perkins Comic Actress Scholarship
  Zoe Tyler, Brittany Nicholson
Sol Feinstone Technical Theatre Award
  Alex Hejna, Jake Price
John Ross Berneche Acting Scholarship
  Chloe Oliphant, Dajah Garrett
Tom Berenger Acting Scholarship
  De’Janna Scales-Hand, Jack Fulkerson
Miller Musical Theatre Scholarship
  Dacia Slater, Joel Rodriguez
George C. Scott Memorial Acting Scholarship
  Dajah Garrett
Richard M. Hennessy Scholarship
  Averey Campbell, Abby Land, Gehazi Whitehurst
Dan Springer Memorial Scholarship
  Payton Woodruff, Kyle Shearrer
George C. Scott Memorial Acting Scholarship
  Raynesha Green
Andrew R. Sackin Performing Arts Showcase Endowment
  Katrin Hunter, Grace Langan
Special Talent Scholarship
  Ayanna Taylor
MU Theatre Citizenship Award
  Timothy Boykin
Stories matter.
Come experience the ones we tell.

Join us virtually this season!
Tickets available online at
theatre.missouri.edu

So Near, So Far
7 pm September 17 - 27

Selections from All The Spaces
7 pm October 14 - 25

18th Annual
Life and Literature Performance Series
7 pm November 4 - 15

theatre.missouri.edu

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