

EMU THEATER AND VACA PRESENT



U2 ROMEO & JULIET

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
U2

TEXT BY
William Shakespeare

PLAYED LIVE BY
Prince Bellerose

Saturday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 17 at 2 p.m.

Thursday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

Friday, October 29 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

EMU'S MAINSTAGE THEATER

UNIVERSITY COMMONS
1307 PARK ROAD HARRISONBURG



Dear Patrons of EMU Theater,

Welcome to the 2021-22 theater season at Eastern Mennonite University.

The performing arts at EMU enliven our campus. Community engagement is vital to the success of the arts and educational enrichment. The arts contribute to EMU's mission "to prepare students to serve and lead in a global context." Thank you for joining our community of learners and participating in the artistic cycle.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Performing Arts, Theology and Humanities, I welcome you to *U2 Romeo and Juliet*, EMU's original rock musical.

Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.
President of EMU

WARNING

This show contains fog and strobe lights. We would also like to inform all audience members that there will be a prop gun used in some of the scenes. All actors who handle the prop gun have been trained on how to properly hold and aim it. No blanks will be shot from the gun. If you have any questions, feel free to ask our house manager.

U2 Romeo and Juliet

Creators..... Jerry Holsopple
Justin Poole
Band: Prince Bellerose..... Valentine Prince (guitar)
Daniel Bellerose (bass)
Joseph Harder (drums)
Scene Designer..... Shannon Dove
Production Assistants..... Ezrionna Prioleau and Hailey Holcomb
Assistant Director..... Isaac Longacre
Stage Manager..... Jareya Harder
Assistant Stage Manager..... Alana Lovick
Vocal Coach..... James Richardson
Movement Choreographer..... Ellie de Waal
Fight Choreographer..... Wolf Sherrill
Costume Designer..... Rachel Herrick
Lighting Designer..... Robert Weaver

U2's songs appear courtesy of Universal Music Publishing Group

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

Technical Director.....	Shannon Dove
Sound Board Operator.....	Ezrionna Prioleau
Light Board Operator.....	Jareya Harder
Spot Operators.....	Jacob Hess and Kelsie Blocker
Video Crew.....	Jeremy Blain
Video Production Team.....	Asha Beck, Keith Bell Jeremy Blain, Ambrose Monahan, Eric Ocaranza, Jared Oyer, Theo Yoder, Mandy Puffenbarger, Christopher Runion McKenzie VanHandel
Costume Designer and Shop Manage.....	Rachel Herrick
Construction and Technical Crew.....	Josh (Jay) Shepherd, Adam Hoover, Mikayla Pettus, Matt Hevener, Abigail Hickok
Poster Design.....	Jerry Holsopple
Public Relations Coordinators.....	Anna Hoover
Cast Photographs.....	Rachel Holderman
House Manager.....	Mikayla Pettus
Box Office Manager.....	Sarah Regan
VACA Administrative Assistant.....	Belen Yoder
Theater Administrative Assistant.....	Stephen Farrar

Chamber Singers

Directed by Ben Bergey

Afton Rhodes-Lehman, Hannah Beck, Reah Clymer, Erin Batten,
Tyler Williams, Asha Beck, Verda Zook, Iris Anderson, Canyon Penner,
Jacob Nissley, Thaddeus Jackson

CHARACTERS

Romeo.....	Andrew Stotlzfus
Juliet.....	Greta Schrag
Friar Laurence	Shannon Dove
Nurse.....	Clara Bush
Mercutio.....	Elizabeth Eby
Benvolio.....	Anna Hoover
Tybolt.....	Isaac Longacre
Paris.....	Matt Hevener
Prince.....	Joe Seitz
Lord Montague.....	James Richardson
Lady Montague.....	Ani Beitzel
Lord Capulet.....	Stan Swartz
Lady Capulet.....	Evelyn Shenk
Servant.....	MacRae Richardson
Balthasar.....	Molly Piwonka
Friar John.....	Adam Hoover
Police.....	Emma Nord, Sophia Gott, Adam Hoover

Montagues

Molly Piwonka, Emma Nord, Andrew Burks

Capulets

MacRae Richardson, Sophia Gott, Alexis Lewis, Adam Hoover

CREATOR'S NOTES

By Justin Poole:

Way back in 2000, not too long after the threat of the Cold War had thawed and just before the shocking events of 9/11, my younger self, a blissfully ignorant college student/theatre geek was gearing up to audition for a strange new production: a mashup of Shakespeare's underperformed comedy *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* and the songs of The Beatles. Mark Hallen, my quixotic theater director at Eastern University, nearly got into a car accident when the idea of combining the Bard and the Beatles suddenly flashed into his head. It was a fun, quirky, innocent, naive, and ultimately brilliant production for a simpler time.

The idea was the product of a pre-9/11 world, but the piece premiered only a few months after the collective innocence of my generation was lost in the wake of the Twin Towers collapsing. As often happens with mentor/student relationships, I flagrantly ripped off Mark Hallen's idea and started envisioning a performance of *Romeo and Juliet* set to the music and lyrics of my personal favorite band U2. It would be a much darker, more morally complicated play that mirrored the new state of the world as I saw it: disordered, uncertain, violent, and desperate.

It's taken over 20 years to get this piece out of my head and onto the stage.

Thankfully now some of us children of the 80s and 90s, who grew up nursed on Bono's crooning and the Edge's otherworldly guitar riffs, are in positions to test our wacky ideas. U2 fans stick together, so I approached Jerry Holsopple, an even bigger fan of U2 than myself. I was expecting him to say "That'll never work. What are you thinking, Justin?" He said the opposite and immediately became my co-collaborator.

Jerry and I developed this adaptation during the summer of 2020, a time when the world just seemed to keep getting darker and when the message of reconciliation that pervades Shakespeare's tragedy AND U2's ethos provided a welcome respite to the doom and gloom saturated media coverage of the day. "Reconciliation and hope," you say, "I thought this was a play about ill-fated lovers and revenge?" Yes and no. This is a play about love overcoming hate. Is there uncertainty? Yes! Is there despair? Yes! But as we experience the myriad of human emotions in this play, we also hear the unmistakable call of both the Bard and Bono to "lay down, lay down

your guns, all you daughters of Zion, all you Abraham's sons." This is a play about the horrible things we do to each other and the need for us to advocate for peace and justice despite seemingly insurmountable odds.

By Jerry Holsopple:

Looking back, I remember the first U2 songs, that stayed with me like Sunday Bloody Sunday or 40. Their music has traveled with me in my documentary work into war zones and the trauma of racism and sexual abuse, where I often wondered, "How long to sing this song."

The music of U2 works so well in this show because most of their songs mean more than one thing. It may be about love, but it is also about this other situation and often making social commentary. It goes from lament to prophetic anger, from intense personal feelings to grand ideas all while balancing multiple narratives on the flow of text and music. The show is visceral, visual, active and contemplative, and if that mix sounds strange, come and see it. This piece is for those, who say, "I still haven't found what I'm looking for," including those of us who lost our innocence years before 9/11.

We developed this layering of U2 and the Bard, knowing that the band might not give us permission. But creating even the script was worth it during those long days of 2020, and thankfully U2 said, "Yes." Neither of us could imagine what was yet to come in our lives as a nation when we wrapped up the adaptation a year ago. The text and music call us to build communities full of justice and hope. I remember walking along the "peace wall" in Belfast, wondering if it was really peace if they had to build a wall between them. Today we are just as separated by Facebook algorithms, the labels and the code words. But tonight....

ACT 1

Prologue: Discotheque

Scene 1: The Sweetest Thing

Scene 2: Even Better than the Real Thing

Scene 3: Stuck in a Moment

Scene 4: I will Follow

Scene 5: Numb, Love is Blindness

Scene 6: Love and Peace or Else, I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For

Scene 7: Love Came to Town

Scene 8: Desire

Scene 9: 40

Scene 10: Grace

Scene 11: Exit

ACT 2

Scene 1: Sunday Bloody Sunday

Scene 2: A Man and a Woman

Scene 3: With or Without You

Scene 4: So Cruel

Scene 5: Walk On

Scene 6: One Step Closer

Scene 7: Wake Up Dead Man

Epilogue: One

CAST BIOS

Shannon Dove – FRIAR LAURENCE/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND SCENE DESIGNER

Shannon is a local grad of JMU and Broadway High School. He has been a scenic artist, master electrician, master carpenter, master painter, technical director, and overall crew chief at EMU since 2002. He has worked to produce theatre for various organizations at the college, community, and professional levels. In addition, he is currently scenic artist, co-technical director, and adjunct professor of theatre at Bridgewater College. Shannon is also an avid musician.

Greta Schrag – JULIET

Greta is a sophomore Political Science and Sociology double major with a minor in Community Organizing and Development from Harleysville, PA. In high school, she was part of Dock Mennonite Academy's productions of *Newsies* (Kathrine) and *The Sound of Music* (Liesel). Last spring she was a part of *Shrek: The Musical* (Teen Fiona) here at EMU.

Andrew Stoltzfus – ROMEO

Andrew is a senior nursing major with a theater minor from Harrisonburg, VA and beyond at Rift Valley Academy (Kijabe, Kenya). At EMU, he was in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* (Duke Vincentio), Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Collins, Mr. Wickham) and *Shrek: The Musical* (Farquaad).

Clara Bush '18 – NURSE

Clara is an EMU grad with a BA in Theater from Souderton, PA. While at EMU she performed most notably in *The Spitfire Grill* (Hannah), *Macbeth* (Lady Macbeth), *The 39 Steps* (Annabella, Pamela, Margaret), *Twelfth Night* (Olivia), *Distant Witness* (@angryarabiya), as well as others.

Elizabeth Eby– MERCUTIO

Elizabeth is a senior peacebuilding & development and Bible, religion & theology major from Goshen, IN. At Bethany Christian High School, Elizabeth performed in *HONK!* (Lowbutt), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre), *Working* (Kate Rushton), *The Star on My Heart* (Inge Auerbacher), and *Our Town* (Mrs. Gibbs). She was also in EMU's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Belle), *Pride and Prejudice* (Lizzy Bennet) and *Shrek: The Musical* (Dragon and other roles)

Anna Hoover – BENVOLIO

Anna is a junior biochemistry major, minoring in theatre from New Carlisle, OH. At Tecumseh High School, she was a part of many productions, her favorites being *The Little Mermaid* (Ariel) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (ensemble). She was also in The Vandalia Youth Theater's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (chorus) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Inventor). She was a part of EMU's *Pride and Prejudice* (Lydia Bennet, Miss de Bourgh) and *Shrek: The Musical* (Wicked Witch and other roles). Anna also works as the promotions assistant for EMU Theater.

Isaac Longacre – TYBALT/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Isaac is a senior music education major from Quakertown, PA. At EMU, he was seen in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* (Angelo), Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Gaston), and *Shrek: The Musical* (Shrek).

Stanley W Swartz – LORD CAPULET

Stanley is an EMU alum who grew up in Pennsylvania, Alaska, Florida and Virginia. Stan has been involved in teaching, directing, producing, and creating theatre for 50 years in ten countries. While teaching at Harrisonburg High School, he led the school to five Virginia State Theater Championships, and was named the South Eastern Theatre Conference's Director of the Year in 2017 (Secondary School Division). He acknowledges God Almighty as being wonderful, and thanks Him for creating us in His image with such great potential, including the potential to be creative.

Evelyn Shenk – LADY CAPULET

Evelyn is sophomore Peace Building and Development major with a minor in writing from Paonia, CO. She has been in many show, including *Hay Fever* (Judith Bliss), *Newsies* (Race), *The Winter's Tale* (Autolycus, "Jealousy"), and *Fin and Euba* (Euba). She has also been stage manager for *Prides Crossing* and *Our Town*. Last spring she was a part of *Shrek: The Musical* (Captain of Guard) here at EMU.

Ani Beitzel – LADY MONTAGUE

Ani is a sophomore History and Political Science double major from Meyersdale, PA. At Meyersdale High school she was part of many productions including: *The Wizard of Oz* (The Wicked Witch), *Anything Goes* (Chastity), *The Music Man* (Ewart Dunlop), and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Asher, Baker). Last Spring she was the spotlight operator for EMU's production of *Shrek: The Musical*.

James Richardson – LORD MONTAGUE

James Richardson is Assistant Professor of Music at EMU where he teaches musical theater and has directed music for *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *Into the Woods*, and *Iolanthe*. Next semester, he is conducting the opera *Noye's Fludde* (Noah's Flood) by Benjamin Britten and playing the part of Klaus in Justin Poole's *Bonhoeffer: Cell 42*. As a baritone vocalist, he has had leading operatic roles in *Albert Herring*, *La bohème*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *L'Orfeo*, to name a few. Richardson's recent research interests involve his discovery and premiere of missing song manuscripts by British composer Armstrong Gibbs (1889-1960)—the topic of an upcoming December publication in *Brio* (UK & IRL music journal). His performance can be viewed via the Armstrong Gibbs Society website.

Matt Hevener – PARIS

Matt is a sophomore engineering major with a minor in theatre from Staunton, VA. While at Staunton High School, he was a part of *The Kitchen* (Peter), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* (Roger), *Footloose* (Wes), *Short Plays* by Samuel Beckett, *Night of the Living Dead*, and *Marat Sade*. Last spring he was a part of *Shrek: The Musical* (Papa Bear) here at EMU.

Joseph Seitz – PRINCE

Joe is a senior math major with minors in computer science, music, and honors from Harrisonburg, VA. At EMHS, Joe was seen in *Brigadoon*, *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Pirate King) and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon). Also at EMHS, he served on the tech crew for *Charlotte's Web*, was assistant director for *Anne of Green Gables*, and lighting director for *The King and I*. At EMU, he served as assistant director for *Measure for Measure* and was in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere, Broom Guy), *Pride and Prejudice* (Darcy) and *Shrek: The Musical* (Donkey). Joe is currently on cross cultural in Southeast Asia.

Adam Hoover – FRIAR JOHN/POLICE/CAPULET

Adam is a first-year mechanical engineering major with a minor in theatre from New Carlisle, OH. While at Tecumseh High School Adam was in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *The Little Mermaid* (Sabastian), *Beauty and the Beast* (Lumiere), and *The Pajama Game*. He was also involved in The Vandalia Youth Theatre's productions of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Potts), and *The Drowsy Chaperone* (Aldolpho).

Molly Piwonka – BALTHASAR

Molly is a junior art education major with a minor in environmental sustainability from Springs, PA. At Baldwin Upper Elementary, Molly participated in stage crew for *The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree*. Last spring she was a part of *Shrek: The Musical* (White Rabbit) here at EMU.

Emma Nord – POLICE/MONTAGUE

Emma is a first-year mathematics and secondary education major from Greenville, IL. This is Emma's first show at EMU, but she was involved in her high school's productions of *Tender Lies* (Ellie), *The Little Mermaid* (ensemble), *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror #11), *Newsies* (Henry), *Harvey* (Asst. Director/Stage Manager), *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Martha), and *A Christmas Carol* (various roles).

Sophia Gott – POLICE/CAPULET

Sophia is a sophomore interdisciplinary music and social work double major from Bluffton, OH. At Bluffton High School, she was a part of *Left in the Wicker Basket* (any idiot), *The Addams Family* (chorus), *Bedtime Stories*, *Emma! A Pop Musical* (student assistant and chorus), *Free Ice Cream*, *The Wizard of Oz* (farmhand and Oz girl), *Jookalorum!*, and *Virgil's Wedding*. Last spring, she was a part of *Shrek: The Musical* (Pig 1) here at EMU.

MacRae Richardson – CAPULET/SERVANT

MacRae Richardson is a veteran of the EMU stage having participated in *Shrek: The Musical* (2021) and *Beauty and the Beast* (2019) as an ensemble member. She is a senior at Blue Ridge Christian School where she has had roles in *Goldilocks on Trial* and *The Elevator Family*. She is a several time “superior-rating” winner at The Association of Christian Schools International music competition in both the solo and the ensemble divisions; and she is an avid chorister with the Shenandoah Valley Children’s Choir.

Alexis Lewis – CAPULET

Alexis is a first-year writing studies and psychology double major from Buckhannon, WV. This is Alexis’ first show at EMU; however, she was involved in her high school’s productions of *Phantom of the Opera*(chorus), *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* (Stage Manager), *Winnie the Pooh* (Stage Manager), and *On Your Mark* (Mrs. Fox).

Andrew Burks – MONTAGUE

Andrew is a junior interdisciplinary music-sociology major from Purcellville, VA. They have been an active part of musical and theater productions since middle school, including *The Three Musketeers* (ensemble), *Beauty and the Beast* (Beast), and the role of assistant musical director in numerous other productions. This show has been their first theatrical production since the beginning of college and COVID, and by far the most unique production they’ve ever been a part of.

CREW BIOS

Justin Poole – CREATOR

Justin, associate professor of Theater and Theater program director at EMU, holds an MA in theatre from Villanova University, and a Ph.D. in theatre and performance studies from the University of Maryland. Justin has spent significant time in Europe studying experimental performance and art. At EMU, he has directed *The Spitfire Grill*, *The 39 Steps*, *Into the Woods*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, Disney’s *Beauty and the Beast* and *Shrek: The Musical*. He also adapted and directed *Distant Witness: Social Media, the Arab Spring, and a Journalism Revolution*. Justin co-created and performed *The Gospel Project* and *Firebrand: The Life of Paul*. He is artist-in-residence at Asbury United Methodist Church, an oil painter, and a certified yoga teacher. His next project is *Bonhoeffer: Cell 39*, a hybrid performance mixing cinema and live theater, which he also co-created with Jerry Holsopple.

Jerry Holsopple – CREATOR

Jerry Holsopple holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the European Graduate School Media and Communication Studies Program, (dissertation, *Toward a Poetic of Visual Music*). Holsopple was the Artist in Residence at The Henry Luce III Center for the Arts and Religion at Wesley Theological Seminary during 2015, where he created a sixty-panel exhibition, using abstract paintings mixed with photographic ink transfers, *Laments for an Age of Sexualized Power*. He spent the academic year 2009-2010 teaching at LCC International University in Lithuania as a Fulbright Scholar and learning to write (paint) icons with an Orthodox priest. He has led eight cross-cultural trips to Lithuania and created a documentary photography and interview series exploring the Baltic Way freedom movement which has exhibited internationally. Holsopple is the recipient of more than a dozen awards in recognition of his video and digital design. *Journey Toward Forgiveness*, a documentary he produced, originally aired on ABC (2001) and again on the Hallmark Channel. His art has periodically been on exhibit and two series, *On the Way* and *Art of the Call* are permanently installed. Holsopple and Poole previously collaborated on *Distant Witness* and are in production on *Bonhoeffer: Cell 39*, which incorporates cinema and theater.

Prince Bellerose – THE BAND

Prince Bellerose is an indie power trio consisting of Valentin Prince (picnic.), Joseph Harder (Babe Lewis) and Daniel Bellerose (Hey, beautiful, Bellerose). Their debut album, *BLUSH* (out November 5th) marks the band's first step into embracing their less traditional influences. Taking inspiration from Unknown Mortal Orchestra, Tame Impala, and many others in the synth-drenched realm of indie psych, Prince Bellerose presents Rock smudged with a distinct air of laziness. With tracks written and produced by each of the three band members, the album knowingly nods to the respective futures of each member's solo project. Produced by Illiterate Light's Jake Cochran, and birthed in an atmosphere of sheer chaos, *BLUSH* is a bizarre-yet-lovable sonic experience.

Jareya Harder –STAGE MANAGER

Jareya is a senior computer science major with a minor in theatre from Mountain Lake, MN. At Mountain Lake High School, Jareya participated in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The Middle of Yesterday*, and *Blues* (lighting technician). She was the light operator at Mountain Lake High school from 2012 to 2018. At EMU, she was the assistant stage manager in *Measure for Measure* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and the Stage Manager for *Shrek: The Musical*.

Rachel E. Herrick – COSTUME DESIGNER

Rachel is a JMU grad with a B.A. in theater and dance. While at EMU, Rachel designs costumes, manages the build of costumes, and does much of the costume construction. Her EMU design credits include *Measure for Measure*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Pride and Prejudice*. Rachel spends her summers working with Charlottesville Opera, where she was wardrobe supervisor for *The Tragedy of Carmen*, and assistant wig supervisor for *Camelot* during the 2019 season. More information about Rachel's credits can be found at www.racheleherrick.com.

Robert Weaver '18 – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Robert is a recent EMU grad from Baltimore, MD. He majored in photography and minored in theater and business administration. Robert is a freelance theater artist in D.C. and Baltimore. Robert is currently a stagehand and lighting designer at the Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University. He recently enjoyed working with Step Afrika! as an assistant master electrician for their touring production of *The Migration: Reflections on Jacob Lawrence*. Robert has most recently been the lighting designer for *Measure for Measure*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Pride and Prejudice* (Eastern Mennonite University) and assistant lighting designer for *The Spitfire Grill*.

Ezrionna Prioleau '17 – PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Ezrionna is an EMU theater graduate, who is now a seminary and business graduate student at EMU. She has worked on many productions at EMU, including assistant stage manager for *On the Verge*, and stage manager on *Twelfth Night*, *Distant Witness*, and *The 39 Steps*. She was in *Into the Woods* (Granny, Milky White, movement chorus), and *A Year With Frog and Toad* (Snail). Ezrionna also stage managed *The Gospel Project* and *Firebrand* for The Wanderlust Theater Company. Recently, she has worked on Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (assistant producer) at EMU.

Hailey Holcomb '17 – PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Hailey Holcomb is a graduate student in Eastern Mennonite Seminary's M.Div. program. Hailey has worked for EMU Theater since 2014, when she was an undergraduate at EMU. She has worked in various capacities - including stage management, scene shop crew, props, costuming, acting, and her current role as a production assistant. Her shows include *Into the Woods*, *Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* (Squirrel), *Distant Witness*, *39 Steps*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Gospel Project*, *Firebrand: The Story of Paul*, *Corpus Christi* (Thomas), *Beginning of Spring*, *Measure for Measure*, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and *Shrek: The Musical*.

Ellie de Waal – DANCE CHOREOGRAPHER

Ellie, a native of Harrisonburg, is a freelance dancer and choreographer based in New York City. She received a BFA in modern and contemporary dance from Texas Christian University and spent a year training in the Netherlands at Danshuis Station Zuid under the direction of Andrew Greenwood. While there, she performed in works by Itamar Serussi Sahar and Rocco Vermijs. In NYC, Ellie choreographed and performed in *Savage Force*, an original Off-Broadway production. She choreographed *Still More/More Still* in collaboration with composer Anna Heflin and soprano Melissa McCann as part of a song cycle reawakening. Ellie is a co-founder, dancer and choreographer with the Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative. Offstage, she is a fully certified Pilates instructor and dance teacher.

Wolf Sherrill – FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHER

Wolf J Sherrill is an Associate Professor of Acting at James Madison University, a freelance director, and an award winning Equity Actor. Wolf has worked in numerous regional theatres including the Indiana Repertory Theater, The Contemporary American Theater Company, Arvada Center, and Virginia Repertory Theatre. Favorite stage roles include Mr. Darcy/Mr. Collins in *Pride and Prejudice*, Marc Antony in *Julius Caesar*, and Konsta in the world premiere of *The End of War*. In media Wolf can be seen as Confederate President Jefferson Davis in *Legends and Lies: Civil War* and Baba Melvin in the feature film *The Rise of the Fellowship* currently streaming on Amazon Prime. Wolf is an Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, enjoys snowboarding, and is an avid Ohio State fan. He can be found online at wolfjsherrill.com.

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EMU THEATRE SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

U2 Romeo and Juliet

Text by William Shakespeare

Music and Lyrics by U2

Adapted by Jerry Holsopple and Justin Poole

Dates

Saturday, October 16 at 7 p.m.

Sunday, October 17 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, October 19 at 10 a.m. (School Matinee)

Wednesday, October 20 at 10 a.m. (School Matinee)

Thursday, October 28 at 7 p.m.

Friday, October 29 at 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 30 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

EMU Student Theater Cabaret

An informal, student-run evening of 10-minute plays, poetry, and music.

Dates

Saturday, December 4th

(Tech during the day, perform at 7 p.m.)

Special Faculty Theater/Cinema Production

Bonhoeffer: Cell 39

Created by Jerry Holsopple and Justin Poole

Dates

8 Performances between January 21st and January 30th

Spring Opera Performance

Noye's Fludde (Noah's Flood)

by Benjamin Britten

Music Direction by James Richardson

Stage Direction by Justin Poole

Featuring EMU Students, Community Members, and Members of the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir

Dates

Performances in April

The Kennedy Center
THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival™ 51, part of
the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by
David and Alice Rubenstein.*

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College Theater Festival.

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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, drama-
turgs, 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
KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recogniz-
ing 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.

EMU THEATER MISSION

At EMU, we strive to produce well-rounded, faithful, and compassionate artists who dynamically engage the world through radical acts of service to their communities and the world.

Our production seasons feature a range of styles from mainstream musicals to groundbreaking original plays. Our highly inclusive and supportive community features students and community members from a range of backgrounds and academic disciplines.

EMU's minors in theater and musical theater allow students to go more in-depth with the academic side of the art form as they also augment the skills they develop on stage.

EMU's theater faculty are committed to developing original work collaboratively with students, which may be shared within EMU's community and the world at large.

Through cross-cultural study and collaboration with EMU's many dynamic programs, EMU theater students gain a global perspective on life and how they may use their art to enact powerful social change.

