



EMU THEATER PRESENTS

SHREK
The
MUSICAL



OUTSIDE ON EMU'S THOMAS PLAZA
1200 PARK ROAD, HARRISONBURG

Free general admission. All audience members are required to wear masks and to physically distance while congregated on EMU grounds.

Additional Covid safety measures are also in place and will be communicated to our patrons upon arrival.

Contact the EMU Box office
(540-432-4582 or emu.edu/box-office) for updates.

DREAMWORKS SHREK THE MUSICAL IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.COM

emu.edu/theater

Dear Patrons of EMU Theater,

Welcome to the 2021 theater season at Eastern Mennonite University.

The performing arts at EMU enliven our campus. Community engagement is so critical to the success of the arts and educational enrichment. The arts are a vital component in EMU's mission "to prepare students to serve and lead in a global context." In this season of COVID, we are especially thankful that our Theater Program has shown such resilience and imagination to stage this season's production in safe and appropriate ways. Thank you for joining our community of learners as we Adapt Together.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Theology, Humanities and the Performing Arts at EMU, I welcome you to *DreamWorks' Shrek: The Musical*.

Susan Schultz Huxman
President of EMU

Shrek: The Musical is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

**EMU leadership has made a gracious exception by allowing us to have an audience for this show. Therefore, we ask that all audience members follow these guidelines out of respect for our campus and community. Any violators will be asked to leave.

- Masks are required at all times.
- All EMU buildings are closed to the public. Please plan to use the portable restrooms located in the University Commons parking lot if needed.
- There will be no intermission, only a 5 minute stretch break. During this break, please remain in your designated box unless absolutely necessary.
- After the show is over, please refrain from leaving your seats until dismissed from an usher. If you would like to talk to a cast member, we ask that you do so in the parking lot after everyone has been dismissed and the cast has changed out of their costume.

DreamWorks'

Shrek: The Musical

Director.....Justin Poole
Production Assistants.....Ezrionna Prioleau and Hailey Holcomb
Assistant Director (2020).....Anali Martin
Stage Manager (2021).....Jareya Harder
Assistant Stage Manager (2021) and Stage Manager (2020).....Amber Hooper
Music Director.....Bradley Lehman
Assistant Music Director (2020).....Geneva Knight
Vocal Coach.....Heidi King
Choreographer.....Ellie de Waal
Costume Designer.....Rachel Herrick
Scene Designers.....Shannon Dove and *Esther Tian's Fall 2019
Introduction to Engineering Class*
Lighting Designer.....Robert Weaver

**Engineering Class:* Meckias Abera, Abdulla Alsaadoon, Seth Andreas,
Ethan Ball, Ben Bontrager-Singer, Lily Dodson, Shane Gray, Caleb
Hostetler, Jaden Jones, Logan Jones, Lindy Newcomb, Conrad Nyce,
Ethan Spicher, Zavion Taylor, Luke Wheeler, Caleb Wright*

Thank you to
our sponsors!



and RANDY AND PATSY SEITZ

PRODUCTION ARTISTS

Technical Director..... Shannon Dove
Sound Board Operator..... Ezrionna Prioleau
Tech Assistants..... Noah Swartzentruber, Sean McClary,
Thomas Erickson
Light Board Operator..... Johnny Prioleau
Costume Shop Manager..... Rachel Herrick
Stitchers..... Janelle Birkey, Amber Hooper,
Lauren Yutzy, Dominique Kroeger
Puppet Artists..... Madilyn Kilmer, Amber Hooper
Dragon Puppet Artist..... Justin Poole
Additional Puppet Artists..... Ray Messner (Dragon Wings),
Shannon Dove, Rachel Herrick,
Anali Martin, Sarah Regan
Construction and Technical Crew..... Johnny Prioleau, Josh (Jay) Sheppard,
Haley Williams, Lauren Yutzy, Evelyn Shenk,
Matt Hevener, Anna Hoover
Poster Design..... Rachel Holderman
Public Relations Coordinator..... Anna Hoover
Cast Photographs..... Macson McGuigan
Box Office Manager..... Sarah Regan
VACA Administrative Assistants..... Belen Yoder (2021)
Gretchen Maust (2020)
Theater Administrative Assistant..... Stephen Farrar

Additional design and construction work by the acting ensemble

ORCHESTRA (2019-20) AND MUSIC NOTES

We thank our orchestral musicians who had been committed to play for the 2020 production! They had either started practicing the parts on their own, or had already played along to help in some of our cast rehearsals between January and March 2020:

Geneva Knight, Bradley Lehman, Ruth Reimer-Berg, Jonathan Reimer-Berg, Andrew Reimer-Berg, Tim DeSimone, Brandon Rhinehart, Madison Marshall, Jonah Barnett, Jake Gerl, Codey Logan, Jim Clemens, Angie Clemens, Rhiley Harris, Sam Kauffman, Veronica Horst, and Sarah Regan.

The original orchestration was for about 20 Broadway pit players handling more than 80 instruments. We had adapted and arranged those licensed parts to fit our own available instrumentation and performance space at the side of the stage inside Mainstage Theater.

The 2021 production uses the standard recorded backing tracks licensed from Music Theatre International.

Onstage cast members play additional instruments and Foley effects, as we have developed during rehearsals.

Opening medley (Life in Farquaad's Duloc): compiled by Bradley Lehman and Mac Rhodes-Lehman.

CHARACTERS

Shrek.....	Isaac Longacre
Fiona.....	Sarah Ressler
Donkey.....	Joe Seitz
Lord Farquaad.....	Andrew Stoltzfus
Young Fiona.....	Vienna Poole
Teen Fiona.....	Greta Schrag
Young Shrek.....	Miriam Kurtz
Dragon.....	Elizabeth Eby
Pinocchio.....	Maggie Garber
Gingy.....	Avery Trinh
Papa Ogre, Big Bad Wolf.....	Shannon Dove
Mama Ogre, Humpty Dumpty.....	Sophia Sherrill
King Harold, Mad Hatter, Pied Piper.....	Coleman Maxwell
Queen Lillian, Wicked Witch.....	Anna Hoover
Fairy Godmother, Bird.....	Afton Rhodes-Lehman
Pig 1.....	Sophia Gott
Pig 2.....	Lewis Yoder
Pig 3.....	Mac Rhodes-Lehman
Peter Pan.....	Josh Overacker
Sugar Plum Fairy, Greeter.....	Partha Roy
Mama Elf, Thelonius.....	Sarah Regan
Baby Elf.....	Felicity Poole
Big Sister Elf.....	Katherine Richardson
White Rabbit.....	Molly Piwonka
Mama Bear.....	Dominique Kroeger
Papa Bear.....	Matt Hevener
Baby Bear.....	Virginia Natale
Ugly Duckling.....	Chin-En Hu
Captain of the Guard.....	Evelyn Shenk

Cameo Roles

Bishop.....	Brian Martin Burkholder
Grumpy Dwarf.....	Eric Natale

Knights

Josh Overacker, Matt Hevener, Coleman Maxwell, Mac Rhodes-Lehman

Three Blind Mice

Afton Rhodes-Lehman, Elizabeth Eby, Anna Hoover

Guards

Josh Overacker, Partha Roy, Dominique Kroeger, Evelyn Shenk,
Mac Rhodes-Lehman, Molly Piwonka, Sophia Gott, Coleman Maxwell

Happy People

Josh Overacker, Partha Roy, Molly Piwonka, Mac Rhodes-Lehman,
Coleman Maxwell, MacRae Richardson, Evelyn Shenk, Sarah Regan, Matt Hevener

Duloc Dancers

Elizabeth Eby, Avery Trinh, Anna Hoover, Greta Schrag,
Afton Rhodes-Lehman, Coleman Maxwell, Evelyn Shenk,
Mac Rhodes-Lehman, MacRae Richardson, Josh Overacker

Dragon Puppeteers

Andrew Stoltzfus (Head), Partha Roy/Maggie Garber (Neck),
Sophia Gott/Sophia Sherrill (Body), Dominique Kroeger/Avery Trinh (Tail),
Anna Hoover/Molly Piwonka (Wings)

Various cast show up as Trees and Flowers throughout the show

Former Cast

EMU theater would like to thank all who started this journey, but were not able to continue due to the delay of the show. We appreciate all of the hard work you had put into this show. Below are all the names and roles of the former cast:

Lucas Wenger.....	Lord Farquaad
Stephanie Kniss.....	Pinocchio
Yoel Bobadilla.....	Thelonius, Mad Hatter, Dragon Head
Christian Stutzman.....	Captain of the Guard, Pig 1
Philip Krabill.....	King Harold, Pig 2, Knight 2
Lindsay Acker.....	Fairy Godmother
Anna Ressler.....	Mama Ogre, Teen Fiona, Three Blind Mice
Sam Warner.....	Papa Bear, Knight 3
Maren Bert.....	Elf
Kezia Wettig.....	Humpty Dumpty
Westley Hancock.....	Ensemble

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Let's do a play about the plight of refugees, victims of ethnic cleansing, racial and gender stereotyping, and policies that seek to repress differences in the name of unattainable and misinformed notions of perfection. We'll add in lots of laughs, pop-culture references, colorful characters, more show-stopping numbers than are typically contained in 10 run-of-the-mill musicals, and make it a family show. Let's throw in a hefty dose of parody, thumbing our noses at Disney's sugar-coated, happily-ever-after formula and conformist, corporate mentality.

What familiar subject could possibly fit all of these needs?

I've got it!

Shrek the Musical!

This musical, written by a Pulitzer-Prize winning playwright and a Tony Award winning composer contains far more excitement, depth, and range than I ever imagined a book-to-animated film-to-Broadway musical could.

After discovering the soundtrack one random day three years ago while trying to entertain my children at the breakfast table, I quickly fell in love with the show's heart, wit, and catchy tunes. I now count it as one of my all-time favorites.

This musical matches the ethos of EMU, a university that is at its best when it adheres to its core practices of radical, unequivocal inclusion and community building. Furthermore, the show's core themes of self-acceptance and unity in diversity are much needed in these divisive and uncertain times.

As you watch our zany, high energy, and offbeat production, have fun. Also, ask yourself how you can more fully embrace your neighbor, and "let your freak flag fly!"

Justin Poole

Director

P.S. I wrote these notes last year before any of us had a clue about the changes and uncertainties that the global pandemic would bring. I believe my former notes are still relevant; however, now more than ever, I think we all realize how essential community is. I hope that this musical brings people together and helps us all understand that there is absolutely NO substitute for LIVE human interaction.

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As the characters sing, “What makes us special makes us strong.” To illustrate this, Jeanine Tesori’s music is a brilliant mash-up of styles where everyone can explore their niches. The score and libretto include musical quotes and cultural ideas borrowed from rock opera (1969 “Tommy” by The Who), Wagnerian heroism, Tchaikovsky ballets, gospel music, 1960s hippie pop, Tina Turner, Barry White, Gladys Knight, Clint Eastwood movies, Gustav Mahler, Edvard Grieg, The Wizard of Oz, Star Wars, the Monkees, and more...plus a notorious 1970 storybook about teen angst. There is a reference to a Super Bowl 2004 TV commercial, where a donkey tries hair extensions on his legs so he can pull beer wagons.

The characters grow beyond what they had thought they were, seeking identity and belonging. Their music illustrates the way their diverse styles and lifestyles come together in community. The music has layers, like onions and parfaits and ogres, like everybody.

A special case is Tesori’s music for Lord Farquaad, a vulgar and disappointing man who tries to seem bigger by putting everyone else down. As he presses to become an all-powerful king, the citizens of Duloc are victims of the dissonances in his soul. The music he touches goes wrong and discordant, illustrated by augmented triads and other weird intervals. We have added more cues like this, further augmenting the menacing wrongness and cruelty in Farquaad’s wicked despotism. Whenever a step of his evil plan moves along, we get to hear his narcissistic perception inside his head that he is the perfect hero.

For pre-show music, I have assembled a bedtime-story medley about life under Farquaad. It previews some of the pieces quoted in the show. The most discordant one is Paul Hindemith’s faithful depiction of bad musicians sight-reading Wagner at the village well at 7:00 a.m. Fairytales are not only terrifying, but fun. Welcome to Duloc.

Bradley Lehman
Music Director

ACT 1

Overture

Scene 1: Big Bright Beautiful World

Scene 2: Story Of My Life, Story Of My Life-Tag, The Goodbye Song

Scene 3: Don't Let Me Go

Scene 4: Farquaad's Chambers

Scene 5: What's Up Duloc?, What's Up Duloc?- Reprise

Scene 6: I Know It's Today

Scene 7: Travel Song

Scene 8: Forever

Scene 9: This Is How a Dream Comes True, Sunset

Scene 10: Who I'd Be

ACT 2

Entr'acte

Scene 1: Morning Person, I Think I Got You Beat

Scene 2: Ballad Of Farquaad

Scene 3: Air Guitar Crossover

Scene 4: Make a Move, Make a Move- Tag, Sunset

Scene 5: When Words Fail

Scene 6: Morning Person- Reprise, Build a Wall

Scene 7: Freak Flag

Scene 8: Donkey The Wedding! We'll Never Make It In Time!

Scene 9: Wedding Procession, Big Bright Beautiful World- Reprise,

Transformation, Beautiful Ain't Always Pretty, Finale

Bows: I'm a Believer

CAST BIOS

Isaac Longacre – SHREK

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

Sarah Ressler– FIONA

Sarah is a senior with a double major in elementary education and special education from Kidron, OH. At Central Christian High School, Sarah was seen in *Wizard of Oz* (Wicked Witch of the West), *Anne of Avonlea* (Anne) and *Mary Poppins* (Bird Lady). She was also in EMU's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Mrs. Potts).

Andrew Stoltzfus– FARQUAAD

Andrew is a junior 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) and *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Collins, Mr. Wickham).

Joseph (Joe) Seitz – DONKEY

Joe is a junior 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) and *Pride and Prejudice* (Darcy).

Maggie Garber – PINOCCHIO/ENSEMBLE

Maggie is a first-year music and peacebuilding major from Broadway VA. At Broadway High School, she was in *Peter Pan* (Neverland Native), *Bye Bye Birdie* (Teen Trio Birdie Fan Club), *Big Fish* (Witch), and *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* (Willy Wonka). She was a featured dancer in *Peter Pan*, *Bye Bye Birdie*, and *Big Fish*.

Elizabeth Eby– DRAGON/3 BLIND MICE/ENSEMBLE

Elizabeth is a junior 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) and *Pride and Prejudice* (Lizzy Bennet)

Avery Trinh – GINGY/ENSEMBLE

Avery is a junior psychology major with minors in math, theatre and neuroscience from Columbia, MD. At Wilde Lake High School, Avery performed as an ensemble member for *Mary Poppins*, *Little Mermaid*, *Seussical the Musical* and *Once Upon a Mattress*. At EMU, he was seen in Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* (Pompey, Chorus) and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Cogsworth, Chorus).

Afton Rhodes-Lehman – FAIRY GODMOTHER/3 BLIND MICE/ENSEMBLE

Afton is a first-year art major with a minor in honors from Harrisonburg VA. She has been in many shows, including *Into the Woods*, *The King and I* (Anna, understudy), *Little Women* (Meg March), and *Alice in Wonderland* (Alice). Afton was also involved with set and costume work for all of the named productions as well as a production of *Robin Hood*.

Anna Hoover – QUEEN LILLIAN/3 BLIND MICE/WICKED WITCH/ENSEMBLE

Anna is a sophomore biochemistry major, minoring in theatre from New Carlisle, OH. At Tecumseh High School, she was a part of many productions, her favorites being *Little Mermaid* (Ariel) and *Fiddler on the Roof* (ensemble). She was also in Vandalia Youth Theater's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (chorus) and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Inventor). Last semester, she was in EMU's *Pride and Prejudice* (Lydia Bennet, Miss de Bourgh). Anna also works as the promotions assistant for EMU Theater and will be interning with Vandalia Youth Theater as a Dramaturge this summer.

Partha Roy – SUGAR PLUM FAIRY/ENSEMBLE

Partha is a junior double major in global studies and interdisciplinary music from Takoma Park, MD. At Friends Community School, Partha was involved in *The Seussical* (Company). At The Siena School, he was in *The Fantasticks* (El Gallo). At EMU, Partha was in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* and was on tech crew for *Pride and Prejudice*.

Joshua (Josh) Overacker – PETER PAN/ENSEMBLE

Josh is a senior music education major from Mount Crawford, VA. At EMU, he was part of the pit orchestra for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. This will be Josh's first time joining the cast on stage.

Molly Piwonka – WHITE RABBIT/ENSEMBLE

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*.

Evelyn Shenk – CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD/ENSEMBLE

Evelyn is a first-year undeclared major with a minor in theater 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*.

Greta Schrag – TEEN FIONA/ENSEMBLE

Greta is a first-year political science and sociology double major with a minor in honors from Harleysville, PA. In high school, she was part of Dock Mennonite Academy's productions of *Newsies* (Kathrine) and *The Sound of Music* (Liesl).

Sarah Regan – THELONIUS/MAMA ELF/FOLEY ARTIST/ENSEMBLE

Sarah graduated from EMU in 2018 with a degree in social work. She is from Sugarcreek, OH. Sarah serves as assistant director of Auxiliary Services and Box Office manager at EMU

Sophia Sherrill – MAMA OGRE/HUMPTY DUMPTY/ENSEMBLE

Sophia is a first-year political science and history double major with minors in pre-law and honors. Sophia grew up in Tokyo, Japan, and went to high school in Goshen, IN. While in high school, she was a part of many shows, including *Sleepy Hollow* (Mrs. Van Hudson), *Camelot* (ensemble), *All Because of Agatha* (ensemble), *Tarzan* (various ensemble characters), *Appointment of Death* (Lady Westholme), *Annie* (Star-to-be, ensemble), and *Big Fish* (The Witch).

Sophia Gott – PIG 1/ENSEMBLE

Sophia is a first-year 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*.

Coleman Maxwell – KING HAROLD/MAD HATTER/ PIED PIPER/ ENSEMBLE

Coleman is a first-year political science major from College Station, TX. For the A&M Consolidated High School Choir, Coleman was part of *Roger and Hammerstein's Cinderella* (Evil Stepmother), *The Wizard of Oz* (Scarecrow), and *Footloose* (Reverend Shaw Moore). He was also the student director for *Badger* at A&M Consolidated High School

Matt Hevener – PAPA BEAR/ENSEMBLE

Matt is a first-year 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*.

Dominique Kroeger – MAMA BEAR/ENSEMBLE

Dominique is a senior nursing major from Midlothian, VA. Her enthusiasm for theatre is shown not only on the stage, but in the time she puts in at the scene shop and costume shop.

Mac Rhodes-Lehman – PIG 3/ENSEMBLE

Mac is a ninth grader at EMS. He has been in *Anne of Green Gables* (President of Queens Academy) and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Augustus Gloop).

MacRae Richardson – ENSEMBLE

MacRae Richardson is a veteran of the EMU stage, having participated in the chorus of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (2019). She is a junior 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, when not restricted by the pandemic, is an avid chorister with the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir.

Katherine Richardson – BIG SISTER ELF/ENSEMBLE

Katherine Richardson returns to EMU's MainStage theater after participating in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (2019). Since then, she was cast as the White Witch in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* at Blue Ridge Christian School, where she is a fifth-grader. She is no stranger to the stage, having performed in six productions of *The Nutcracker* with the Rockingham Ballet Theatre, most recently as Fritz. She has performed in numerous other ballets, including the title role in *Coppélia*. Outside of the pandemic, when she is not dancing, she is likely singing with the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir.

Lewis Yoder – PIG 2/ENSEMBLE

Lewis is a seventh grader at Thomas Harrison Middle School. He was part of the children's chorus in EMU's production of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, and is in the Shenandoah Children's Concert Choir.

Miriam Kurtz – YOUNG SHREK/ENSEMBLE

Miriam is a local eighth grader. Miriam has been in several productions, including: *Maddie Splinter and the Aluminum Chair* (Robin the Mist Man) at Alexander Middle School (Brooklyn, NY), *Me and the Herdmans* (Alice Wendleken, Mrs. Murphy), and an independent film by Alex Zandi, *The Sandbox Has No Limits*.

Vienna Poole – YOUNG FIONA/ENSEMBLE

Vienna is in third grade at Waterman Elementary School. She has participated in plays at Asbury United Methodist Church and has starred in many original Poole living room productions. Vienna enjoys playing piano and wants to be a great adventurer when she grows up. At EMU, Vienna was part of the children's chorus in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Felicity Poole – BABY ELF/ENSEMBLE

Felicity Poole is a first grader at Waterman Elementary. Felicity loves art, crafts, dancing, and traveling with her family and EMU students. She has created many Poole living room theatre performances with sister Vienna and brother London. This is her first role in a university musical.

Virginia Natale – BABY BEAR/ENSEMBLE

Virginia is a homeschooled student from Weyers Cave, VA. At the Wayne Theater, Virginia was seen in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (kids' ensemble), *Junie B. Jones* (Camile), and *Elf Jr.* (Sam). With Arts-is-in-Performing-Arts, she was in *Two Tickets to Hollywood* (reporter). At EMU, Virginia was part of the children's chorus in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Chin-En Hu – UGLY DUCKLING/ENSEMBLE

Chin-En is an eighth grade homeschooled student from Rockingham, VA. She plays piano and sings in the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir. At Redeemer Classical School's Drama Club, Chin-En was in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug, ensemble). She also enjoys dancing and has performed at various events at James Madison University.

Brian Martin Burkholder – BISHOP

Brian is EMU's campus pastor. Brian has been involved in theatre since high school. At Wayendale High School he was in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (J. Pierrepont Finch), *Oliver* (The Artful Dodger), *Arsenic and Old Lace* (Officer Klein), and *My Fair Lady* (ensemble). Brian was also in *Jordan's Stormy Banks* (Elder John Kline) with a community theatre group, and *The Foreigner* (Ellard Simms) and *Anything Goes* (ensemble) with The Old Firehouse Theatre.

Eric Natale – GRUMPY DWARF

Eric is from Weyers Cave, VA. He is a 1993 VMI graduate. Eric is proud to join his daughter Virginia on stage for his very first theatre production.

CREW BIOS

Justin Poole – DIRECTOR and PRODUCER

Justin, associate professor of Theater and Theater program director at EMU, holds an M.A. in theatre from Villanova University, and a Ph.D. in theatre and performance studies from the University of Maryland. Justin, along with wife Amanda, led a semester-long cross-cultural program to Europe, where Justin has spent significant time studying experimental performance and art. At EMU, he has directed *The Spitfire Grill*, *The 39 Steps*, *Into the Woods*, *Twelfth Night*, *Measure for Measure*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. 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. He is a proud father to Vienna, Felicity, and London.

Jareya Harder – STAGE MANAGER (2021)

Jareya is a junior 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). At EMU, she was the assistant stage manager in *Measure for Measure* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Amber Hooper – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER (2021) and STAGE MANGER (2020)

Amber is an EMU theater graduate from Mechanicsville, VA. At EMU, she performed in *a golem in prague* (Bea), and has served as costume assistant for *The 39 Steps* and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, assistant stage manager for *Far Away*, and stage manager for *MacBeth*, *The Spitfire Grill*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Bradley Lehman – MUSIC DIRECTOR, REARRANGER, CONDUCTOR, KEYBOARDS, REHEARSAL PIANIST

Bradley lives in Dayton, VA. He has a doctorate in harpsichord and is the organist at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. He plays piano for musical theatre classes and opera rehearsals at JMU, and does freelance collaborations for studio instruction there.

Heidi Bauman King '12 – VOCAL COACH

Heidi Bauman King is a proud EMU alum who has been teaching choir and musical theatre in the area since graduation. She is currently taking a break from teaching and now spends her time taking care of her 8-month old son, Everett, and finishing up coursework for her masters degree in music education at JMU. She enjoys singing with the local a cappella group, Good Company, and working with the Shenandoah Valley Children's Choir.

Shannon Dove – TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & SET DESIGNER (also appears as Papa Ogre and Big Bad Wolf)

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.

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 – 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 – 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*, and Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

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.

EMU THEATER'S 2021/2022 SEASON

We are hitting the ground running with an exciting, action packed theater season featuring TWO original shows and EMU's first fully staged opera!

U2 Romeo and Juliet

Text by William Shakespeare

Music and Lyrics by U2

Adapted by Jerry Holsopple and Justin Poole

This original rock musical combines the language of William Shakespeare and the music and lyrics of U2 into a kinetic, visceral performance event that's part U2 rock concert, part Shakespearean tragedy and ALL passion. Featuring a live band, video projections, and a sprawling, gender-bending cast, this piece casts the classic tale of family rivalry, young love, and ultimate reconciliation in a dramatic new light.

Dates: 8 Performances between October 15th and October 30th

Special Faculty Theater/Cinema Production

Bonhoeffer: Cell 39

Music by Jeanine Tesori

Created by Jerry Holsopple and Justin Poole

The life and writings of German theologian, pastor, spy, and Nazi dissident Dietrich Bonhoeffer continue to shock and inspire people around the world. Weaving together letters, eye witness accounts, and dramatic historical imagery, this world premiere play dramatizes the complicated choices one must make when one's theology and moral convictions are tested by a strong drive to act against violent oppression. This theater-cinema hybrid performance breaks new ground and features a large cast of EMU students, alumni, and faculty.

Dates: 8 Performances between January 21st and January 30th

EMU Opera (TBA)

Music and Theater are collaborating on EMU's first ever fully staged opera!

Expect a performance that inspires, challenges, and reinvigorates a familiar classic!

Dates: 8 Performances between April 1 and April 9



*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 KCACTF 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.

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.

EMU Theater:

Justin Poole, Shannon Dove, Rachel E. Herrick,
Bradley Lehman, Belen Yoder, and Stephen Farrar

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Company gratefully acknowledges Amanda Poole, Janie Messner, Ray Messner, Kathryn Schmidt, and Anna Westfall for their contributions to this production.

Special thanks and acknowledgments are also given to Jason Misterka and the team at Southard Audio for their invaluable assistance with lighting and sound for this production. www.southardaudio.com.



emu.edu/theater