

Emerging Voices festival

Page to Stage: A Movement of Truths

Presented by the Directing II Class

Nov 14, 2020

Page to Stage: A Movement of Truths is a presentation of scenes, poems, and music literature of the last 50 years that demonstrates how conflicting truths can co-exist.

The student directors responsible for this collection have drawn inspiration from present-day experiences and sociopolitical movements that have displayed several truths, sparking revolution and creating change.

“Ring of Keys”

From *Fun Home* by Jeanine Tesori

Directed by Aly Scarbrough

As she works on her memoir in the present day, successful middle-aged cartoonist Alison Bechdel recalls her life and coming of age into sexual identity. In this moment, Allison is 10 years old, and sees a “butch” lesbian for the first time – her first time seeing someone to whom she can truly relate.

Allison Lily Kate Gwin

The Christians

By Lucas Hnath

Directed by Vanson Clendenin

This play offers an unflinching look at faith in America – and its power to unite or divide. This scene takes place following an unexpected sermon on the existence of hell, as Jenny confronts Pastor Paul.

Jenny Emma Littlefield

Pastor Paul Dawson Tidwell

Poem About My Rights

By June Jordan

Directed by Zipporah Moore

June Jordan, a Jamaican-American poet and playwright known for her take on gritty topics, her proud expression of Black culture through her writing, and continuous advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community.

Performers Maliya Harris, Arlana Spencer

The Flick

by Annie Baker

Directed by Graham Butler

The Flick is a play that follows the mundane, everyday lives of movie theater employees, Avery, Sam, and Rose. In this scene, Avery – the new guy – reports to his co-workers that the boss has learned about their “dinner money” tradition of taking money from ticket sales each night, sparking a dilemma of self-preservation vs. doing what’s right.

Avery Marquell Burroughs

Rose LC Johnson

Sam Dean Schmidt

Sure Thing

Bill has just stumbled upon Betty reading by herself in a restaurant. They have an introductory conversation in which they each ring a bell whenever they say or hear something they were not happy with, essentially giving the moment a “do-over.”

Betty Gracie Grant

Bill Harley Gardner

Really, Really

By Paul Downs Colaizzo

Directed by Vanson Clendenin

Really, Really tracks the events of one wild party and its massive repercussions for one group of friends, split neatly in the play by gender. Prior to this scene between best friends Davis and Johnson, Davis has been accused of raping Leigh.

Davis Will Hornsby

Johnson Dean Schmidt

Slave Play

By Jeremy O. Harris

Directed by Zipporah Moore

Slave Play is about the role of race in interracial relationships, with direct parallels to relationship roles and dynamics during slavery in the U.S.. In this scene, three interracial couples are sent on a couples’ therapy retreat with therapists Teá and Patricia. This scene is meant to present the truth that the truth is willfully ignored by those who are not affected due to lack of understanding.

Kaneisha Arlana Spencer

Jim Dawson Tidwell

Gary Marquell Burroughs

Dustin Harley Gardner

Teá LC Johnson

Patricia Maliya Harris

How I Learned to Drive

by Paula Vogel

Directed by Zipporah Moore

This play is about the growth from adolescence to adulthood of Lil’Bit, who shares a peculiar but comfortable relationship with her nonbiological uncle, Peck. Throughout this play the metaphor of Lil Bit’s sexual liberation is related to her driving lessons with Uncle Peck, revealing how her history of sexual assault and her lack of understanding affect her future.

Lil’ Bit Macy Sauls

Uncle Peck Dean Schmidt

Next Fall

By Geoffrey Nauffts

Directed by Graham Butler

This play grapples with questions of how sexuality and religion co-exist. In this scene, Adam and Luke discuss Christianity and secrecy over breakfast after their first night together.

Adam Tyler McClellan

Luke Jamie Bishop

Fat Pig

by Neil LaBute

Directed by Madi McCall

This play tells the story of Tom, a young professional who falls for a self-confident and overweight librarian named Helen, drawing conversation from his co-workers about how he will handle the social pressures of dating a “fat pig.” During this scene, Tom has reluctantly taken Helen to a company beach party but actively avoids introducing her to his peers.

Helen Emma Littlefield

Tom Jacob Brooks

“Valley High”

by Drew Gasparini

Directed by Graham Butler

In this song, three high school students describe the events that led them to commit terrible acts as they claim their places on the dark pages of history. Divorce, bullying, and sexual humiliation play into the motivations of these self-proclaimed outcasts.

Boys Tyler McClellan, Jamie Bishop, Marquell Burroughs

High Schoolers Macy Sauls, Harley Gardner, Will Hornsby, Molly Martin, Ingrid Lieb

Black Angel

By Michael Cristofer

Directed by Aly Scarbrough

When a French village discovers a Nazi is living in the community, a newspaper starts reporting all his past crimes as the “Black Angel.” In this scene, a newspaper reporter, Moreault, confronts Engel about his crimes. And is faced with the new reality that he has printed libel about a primarily innocent man.

Engel Jacob Brooks

Moreault Jim Mathis

Seminar

by Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Vanson Clendenin

Seminar tells the story of four young writers who each pay \$5,000 for a ten-week seminar with Leonard, an mentoring; this scene follows a session in which Kate has just had her work ripped to shreds in front of everyone.

Kate Molly Martin

Martin Will Hornsby

Douglas Jim Mathis

Rapture Blister Burn

By Gina Gianfriddo

Directed by Aly Scarbrough

*This play follows Catherine as she navigates life changes. She decides to teach a summer college course called *The Fall of American Civilization* which focuses on the role of women in society. This scene follows the first lesson of Catherine’s class as she and two students discuss the “philosophy” of Phyllis Schlafly, porn, and casual sex. Catherine’s mother, Alice, is roped into the conversation for a tri-generational perspective on the topic at hand.*

“Telephone Wire”

From *Fun Home* by Jeanine Tesori

Directed by Madi McCall

Allison is working on her memoir in the present day, telling the story of her life as she grows up and discovers her sexuality and discusses the college years of her life when she finds out her father is also gay. In this number, Allison recalls the last conversation she had with her dad as she was trying to come out to him – their last encounter before his suicide.

Allison Lily Kate Gwin

Dad Jim Mathis

Production Team

Lighting Design Directing II Students, James Arakas

Costume Design Directing II Students, Brittany Dee Bodley

Scenic Design Directing II Students

Sound Design Directing II Students, Pate Spencer

Props Design Directing II Students

Stage Managers Ashautys Arnold,

Whitney Bishop, Clara Coppoletta,

Pate Spencer, Emma Thomason

Calling Stage Manager Clara Coppoletta

Light Board Op Ashautys Arnold

Sound Board Op Pate Spencer

Deck SMS/Sanitation Whitney Bishop, Emma Thomason

Master Electrician Jean Cardwell

Prop Shop Manager Nerissa Newsom

Faculty Mentors Tori Lee Averett

Audience Engagement/Manager Leanna Lake

Graphic Design Olivia Kattos

Marketing & Publicity Team Lily Everett (Manager),

Taylor Dewberry (Asst. Manager),

Micayla Johnston, Olivia Kattos, Arlana Spencer

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