



2018 – 2019 season

Department of Theatre and Dance | Whitman College

Instant Play Festival – Produced by Kristen Kosmas

September 22 & 23, 2018; Alexander Stage

Fourteen brand new ten-minute student-written plays are created in 48 hours. Students write the plays as the culmination of a series of workshops taken with professional playwrights. Whitman students, staff, and faculty come together to bring the plays to life in a joyful celebration of community, collaboration, and imagination.

Big Love - Written by Charles Mee; Directed by Christopher Petit

October 18 – 20, & 26 – 28, 2018; Freimann Studio Theatre

Big Love retells Aeschylus's *The Suppliants*, setting the play in a villa in modern day Italy, where fifty brides have fled to avoid marrying their fifty cousins. While the brides and grooms wait for their wedding day, the play explores issues of gender politics, love, and domestic violence. "I wanted to go back to what some people thought was one of the earliest plays of the Western World and see how that would look today, see if it still spoke to the moment, and of course it does. It's all about refugees and gender wars and men and women trying to find what will get them through the rubble of dysfunctional relationships, and anger and rage and heartache." - Charles Mee

Because You Are Here, Directed by Jessica Cerullo

December 6 - 8, 2018; Freimann Studio Theatre

What kind of theater is created when students commit to a semester of socially engaged art practice? This performance will be the culmination of a Devised Theater course that invites students to create an original piece of theater in collaboration with the Walla Walla community. An embodiment of urgent social issues, *Because You Are Here* is a theatrical experiment that tests what is possible today. Join us in a collective response to the here and now.

One Act Play Festival, Coordinated and supervised by our dedicated theatre and dance faculty.

February 7 - 10, 2019; Alexander Stage

Students from across the campus are invited to submit original scripts to this contest created and endowed by Physics Professor Emeritus, Craig Gunsul. Three plays are selected by a jury consisting of students, faculty, and members of the Whitman community. The plays are entirely produced by student actors, designers, directors, stage managers, and technicians. Audience is invited to vote on which play wins first, second, and third place, each receiving a cash award.

Red – Written by Somalia Seaton; Directed by Donovan Olsen

February 20 - 23, 2019; Freimann Studio Theatre

When her best friend Jay goes missing, Dee withdraws into a twilight world of fragmented memories and conversations. Where should she look for Jay? What did she miss? What did Jay say and what didn't Jay say? *Red* offers a window into the individual and collective concerns of a group of young women through a single, devastating event. It is an unflinching and bold exploration of the internal lives of young women and what happens when their world is shattered by grief.

Circle Mirror Transformation – Written by Annie Baker; Directed by Anthony Reale

February 28 – March 3, 2019; Freimann Studio Theatre

Marty, an acting teacher, teaches an adult creative drama class at a community center in Shirley, Vermont. Her students include Teresa, a former actress; Lauren, a high school junior; Schultz, a carpenter; and James, Marty's husband. *Circle Mirror Transformation* explores how the group forges—and, in some cases, strains against—connections with each other. As the class progresses, the students begin to let their guards down, yielding some unexpected results. Love waxes and wanes, humor peeks through, and acidity rears its ugly head.

Placeholder - Lead Choreographer - Renee Archibald

April 4 - 7, 2019; Freimann Studio Theatre

Featuring new choreographies by a special guest artist and dance faculty Renée Archibald and Peter de Grasse. Created in collaboration with and performed by Whitman students, each dance embodies the histories and relationships to place.

Life Is A Dream – Written by Pedro Calderon De La Barca, Directed by Carlos Vargas

May 2 – 5 & 16 - 18, 2019; Alexander Stage

The most universal Spanish play, this 17th Century play seeks to teach a lesson that may be learned from the philosophers and religious thinkers of many ages: the world of our senses is a mere shadow, and the only reality is to be found in the invisible and eternal. Calderón's work is a permanent invitation to reflect on the human condition.

Tickets for all performances go on sale two weeks prior to opening!

Evening performances start promptly at 8:00pm, matinees at 2:00pm. House will open one half hour before curtain.

For additional information, please contact the box office at 509.527.5180

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