

# CENTER STAGE

WINTER 2017



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



# Center Stage

WINTER 2017

Newsletter of UW Theatre & Dance

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## Eminent Artists-in-Residence



Darrell Grand Moultrie sets a new work on our dance students.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES  
Department of Theatre & Dance

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A scene from the original protest comedy, FASCISM! THE MUSICAL.

## EMINENTLY ENGAGED

Happy Holidays to you and yours from the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Wyoming!

With restructuring efforts at UW still ongoing, 2017 has been a challenging, but richly rewarding year, and, on that has resulted in a renewed sense of purpose that our work in the theatre and dance arts is more relevant than ever.

2017 was distinguished by the planning for and the arrival and hosting of our Eminent Artists-in-Residence, the celebrated Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH), an effort ably coordinated by **Marsha Knight**, who has been working to bring in DTH for a number of years, and supported by the UW Office of the President. The Company, onsite much of September, participated in several outreach activities and presented a spectacular Gala Concert, which featured a new, original work by choreographer **Darrell Grand Moultrie** commissioned for the residency, "Harlem On My Mind." DTH artists were onsite throughout the fall semester to teach and set works on our students (see **Dance Theatre of Harlem** on p.4).

The Eminent Artist program, made possible by an endowment from the Wyoming State Legislature, and the Guest Artist Series that it has supported, has provided wonderful training and networking opportunities to our students, as well as access to artists of the highest caliber to our audiences. The UW performing arts departments are grateful for the work this endowment has allowed us to undertake since 2008.

In spring 2017, we codified a refined process for season selection, an effort led by **Dr. Patrick Konesko**, which will allow us to plan more than one year in advance in order to more effectively meet our artistic and curricular goals, to formalize and extend script submissions, and to explore the possibility of developing a theme for each season. This process has resulted in our 2017-2018 production season, *Finding Freedom*, which offers six works that speak to the struggle, both bitter and glorious, required if we are to preserve the idea of freedom, which is central to our nation's identity.

With programs and budgets still in flux in spring 2017 during the planning stages for our 64<sup>th</sup> summer theatre season, we decided to produce a single show that we could easily mount and tour, just as in 2014 with *SWINGTIME CANTEEN*, when our theatres were dark due to construction. We selected *THE FANTASTICS*, a musical

## EMINENTLY ENGAGED (cont.)

about two naïve young lovers who must encounter the painful realities of the outside world before they can comprehend what love is. This 1960 work is the world's longest-running musical and typically has broad appeal. It is also a product of its age, relying on tropes and stereotypical representations to indict the lovers' youthful arrogance and inexperience. In this case, those representations indicted the piece as well, leading to a walkout by some students and considerable press regarding the issues raised. For the company as a whole, it was an illuminating experience, resulting in many thoughtful conversations about how theatre serves as a vehicle for communication, education, protest, and connection, how live performance can sometimes elicit a strong response from audiences due to its immediacy, and how historical works and the issues of representation latent in them can be addressed.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival was held July 15-25 and featured the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. Fifty young dancers and 10 UW students participated in the 10-day festival, culminating in a Gala performance featuring festival dancers performing works of teacher/choreographers from the Ririe-Woodbury company and Dance Theatre of Harlem ballet mistress, **Kellye Saunders**. The 2018 festival will run July 18-28, and will feature dancers from the world-renowned Limón Dance Company.

In August, Vertical Dance faculty **Margaret Wilson** and **Neil Humphrey** planned to produce the much loved biennial Vertical Dance at Vedauwoo, but weather and injuries intervened with rigging in that outdoor setting. This provided an opportunity to produce a free public concert in a new indoor space, the Thrust Theatre, which featured music from *Lights Along the Shore* (**Rodney Garnett**, **Lisa Rickard** and **Blake McGee**) Vertical Dance at Vedauwoo is scheduled to return in August 2018.

The 2017-2018 production season opened with *OTHER DESERT CITIES* by Jon Robin Baitz (the creator of TV's *Brothers and Sisters*), a darkly comic family drama about how secrets, extremism, and ideology can keep people from connecting to one another and healing conflicts. Directed by **Dr. Patrick Konesko**, the setting was beautifully rendered in all of its Palm Springs Mid-Century Modern glory by scenic designer **Scott Tedmon-Jones**, and played to small but appreciative audiences.

The fall season went into overdrive with *FASCISM!*: THE MUSICAL, a provocative, irreverent, and bawdy protest comedy with music and lyrics by **Sean Stone** and book by **William Missouri Downs**. The musical aimed to get people talking and listening to one another about the issues raised in the play, as well as about what freedom of speech and expression mean in an age of fake news and "safe" spaces. The production was distinguished by bold and vivid designs in scenic, lighting, and costuming by **Scott Tedmon-**

**Jones**, **Jason Banks**, and **Lee Hodgson**, and received a Meritorious Achievement Award for the Creative Team and Cast, as well as a Certificate of Merit for the Ensemble from the Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). *FASCISM* was selected as an alternate for the 2018 Region VII festival in Spokane, WA.

The fall semester closed with *FALL FOR DANCE*, which featured works from the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) repertoire and residency, as well as original works from Ririe Woodbury Artistic Director **Daniel Charon** and UW Dance faculty member **Jennifer Deckert**. The concert was

unique in that pieces were coached by the masters and choreographers themselves, from DTH Artistic Director **Virginia Johnson** to choreographer **Darrell Grand Moultrie** to DTH teaching artists **Tai Jimenez** and **Charmaine Hunter**.

We look forward to a great spring season, which opens in early February with *A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY*, Pulitzer Prize-winner Tony Kushner's pointed comparison between the rise of the Nazi party in 1930's Germany and the state of American politics in the 1980's.

Students will once again compete in all areas of theatre at the 2018 Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) in February in Spokane, WA. Over spring break, our technical students

will head off to participate in the United States Institute for Theatre Technology (USITT) annual conference and expo in Fort Lauderdale, FL, and in late March our dance students will attend the Northwest Conference of the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA) in Boulder, CO, entering several works in competition, including **Darrell Grand Moultrie**'s original work, *CONNECTIONS* of the Illuminated.

Also in late March, with the Department of Music, we will produce Aaron Copland's unconventional opera *THE TENDER LAND*, which offers a glimpse of life, love, and community in the Midwest during the Great Depression.

The season comes to a fitting, relevant end with an updated staging of **Marsha Knight**'s original work, *SIX SONGS FROM ELLIS*, an outgrowth of the dedicated research she undertook during her sabbatical last year. This collaborative dance/theatre piece explores the experiences of immigrants and refugees who passed through Ellis Island in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as they uprooted from their place of origin to pursue their own dreams of "finding freedom."

Please watch for news of upcoming summer season, as well departmental happenings. We welcome your news and visits at any time, and invite you to tour of our facilities.

Thank you for your interest in the theatre and dance arts, and your support of our programs, our productions, and our students! We wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season.



Katherine Schultz and Walter Taylor in Tai Jimenez's original work "Yin" in *FALL FOR DANCE*.





The Company by Rachel Neville

# DANCE THEATRE *of* HARLEM

## 2017 EMINENT ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE

The University of Wyoming Department of Theatre and Dance has been proud to host the Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH), a leading dance institution of unparalleled global acclaim, as the 2017-2018 Eminent Artists-in-Residence. The residency is supported by UW's Office of the President.

Dance Theatre of Harlem (DTH) encompasses a performing Ensemble, a leading arts education center and Dancing Through Barriers®, and a national and international education and community outreach program. Founded in 1969 by Arthur Mitchell and Karel Shook, DTH was considered “one of ballet’s most exciting undertakings” (The New York Times, 1971). Shortly after the assassination of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mitchell was inspired to start a school that would offer children — especially those in Harlem, the community in which he was born — the opportunity to learn about dance and the allied arts.

Now in its fourth decade, DTH has grown into a multi-cultural dance institution with an extraordinary legacy of providing opportunities for creative expression and artistic excellence that continues to set standards in the performing arts.

“I am aware of the incredible learning experience this sort of opportunity provides for

our students,” said **Marsha Knight**, UW dance faculty member and residency coordinator.

The program began with a visit from DTH teaching artist and former principal dancer **Charmaine Hunter** in early September and continued with an extended residency of the DTH Company, which was on campus from September 17-30. Company members taught, led workshops, and performed for students from K-12 through college age, as well as for the general public. All DTH Company classes and rehearsals were open to the public.

The DTH Company residency culminated in a public Gala Concert Friday, September 29, produced by UW Presents, and supported in part by grants from WESTAF and the Wyoming Arts Council (WAC).

The Gala Concert featured a world premiere work, “Harlem on My Mind,” a dance tribute to Harlem and its nexus of many cultures, rhythms, and musical styles. Each time this work is performed, whether by DTH or any other company around the world, it will include the credit: “‘Harlem on My Mind’ received its World Premiere by Dance Theatre of Harlem on Friday, September 29, 2017, at the University of Wyoming. The work was commissioned by the UW Office of the







L to R: Jennifer Deckert, Melinda Bloom, Leigh Seltin, Virginia Johnson, Pres Laurie Nichols, Kellye Saunders, Keith Saunders, Margaret Wilson, Marsha Knight.



Darrell Grand Moultrie.



UW students rehearsing with Darrell Grand Moultrie.

President in support of the Eminent Artist-in-Residence program.”

After leaving UW, the DTH Company toured to performing arts venues in Sheridan, WY, and Billings, MT, and then embarked on an extensive Eastern European tour.

“Dance Theatre of Harlem, in mission and practice, has a deep history of outreach and extension from the community of Harlem to the world, and this inspires our efforts and engagement with the Laramie community and region,” said Knight.

Major outreach efforts with DTH included:

- An ACSD#1 all-elementary school lecture/demonstration in the UW A&S Auditorium, which played at full capacity;
- “Dancing in the Streets,” an informal and celebratory dance jam session open to the UW community and the public;
- “Meet the Dancers,” Q&A with DTH and the UW community and the public; and
- “Fall For Dance,” a full-length dance concert featuring UW students in DTH works.

Hunter and another DTH former principal dancer, **Tai Jimenez**, served as teaching artists throughout the fall semester to set DTH repertoire on students, as well as to lead 45 workshops/lectures in the Department of Theatre and Dance and African American and Diaspora Studies (AADS). Two classes were also held at Laramie High School and Whiting High School.

Previous UW Eminent Artist residencies have been supported by the Excellence in Higher Education Endowment through the Wyoming State Legislature, awarded in 2008 to UW’s three fine and performing arts departments on a rotating basis. The Department of Theatre and Dance hosted the first Eminent Artist-in-Residence, physical theatre performer Bill Bowers, in spring 2009, the renowned Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company (BTJ/AZ) in fall 2011, the Actors From The London Stage in Spring 2015, and now the Dance Theatre of Harlem, which faculty have been working to secure as Eminent Artists for nearly a decade.

The endowment has also supported the Department’s annual Guest Artist Series, which brought in an average of 15-20 top-notch experts each academic year in the performance, technical and design, and playwriting fields, to lead workshops and master classes and to perform.

The Eminent Artist program has offered outstanding training and networking opportunities for our students and learning and performance opportunities for the community at large these past nine years.



## WILLINGHAM RECEIVES A&S OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD

University of Wyoming Department of Theatre and Dance alumnus **Patrick Willingham, '98**, has been selected as one of two UW **College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Alumni for 2018**.

The award recognizes alumni who have had a significant impact in their chosen career fields, who provide service to their communities and beyond, and who find extraordinary ways to use their liberal arts and sciences education to make a difference in the world.

Willingham was nominated by Department Head **Leigh Selting**, and holds a BFA in Theatre Design and Technology from UW, as well as an MFA in Performing Arts Management from Brooklyn College.

In his more than 20 years of management experience in the theatrical industry, Willingham has risen to prominence in the Broadway and Off-Broadway worlds, and is now arguably one of the most successful executive directors and theatrical producers in the country.

He currently serves as Executive Director of the nationally acclaimed Off-Broadway theatre, The Public Theater, a position he has held since November 2011.

During his tenure at the Public, the theatre has produced five Broadway shows and numerous Off-Broadway productions, garnered two Tony Awards (for HAMILTON, FUN HOME) four Tony nominations (for SWEAT, ECLIPSED, FUN HOME, HAMILTON), four Drama Desk Awards (for HAMILTON, FUN HOME, GIANT, GOBSQUAD'S KITCHEN (YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT SO GOOD)) and six additional Drama Desk nominations (for SWEAT, FIRST DAUGHTER SUITE, LOVE'S LABOURS LOST, REGULAR SINGING, HERE LIES LOVE, SORRY!).

Oskar Eustis, Artistic Director at The Public, had this to say of Patrick's work there: "*Patrick's passion for administration, his deep belief in process, his willingness to learn from best practices in all fields, his patience and his integrity have helped transform our company...He brought his values with him from the University of Wyoming; he is not just a great executive, he is a profoundly good man.*"



Willingham began his theatrical career managing costume shops for Players Theatre in Columbus, Ohio and for the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, moving on to work with Off-Broadway producer and general manager Maria di Dia at her firm, Maria Productions, as well as with Jujamcyn Theaters, the owners and operators of five Broadway venues.

Willingham served as a Company Manager, General Manager, and, ultimately, as President and Chief Operating Officer of Blue Man Productions, where he worked with the founders to nurture the off-Broadway performance art sensation into an international phenomenon. Willingham guided the significant expansion of the company, working with senior management to grow the company from a single production in NYC to a worldwide enterprise employing over 700 people with eight permanent productions in the U.S.

and abroad, multiple touring productions, two albums of recorded music, hundreds of television appearances, and numerous partnerships with major corporations, including Intel and Pepsi.

Most recently, Willingham served as an independent consultant for the Cirque du Soleil partner Cirque Eloize in Montreal, advising the company on its efforts to expand into the U.S. commercial theatrical market.



The Public Theater, in the historic Astor Library Building, a NYC landmark. The building has five theater spaces and Joe's Pub, a cabaret-style venue.



The Public's beloved, free summer program, Shakespeare in the Park, which it operates at the Delacorte Theater in Central Park.



# ALUMNI NEWS



Noelia Antweiler in LEAH THE FORSAKEN.

Since leaving the University of Wyoming, **Noelia Antweiler, BFA, '12**, has maintained a steady career in the performing arts. In New York, she has performed at 54 Below, the Elektra, and with Josh Fox (Academy Award nomination, GASLAND) on devising a political theatre piece called 'Grassroots Solutions,' which toured New York state, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and was

hosted in NYC by Mark Ruffalo and Phylicia Rashad. She also performed in LEAH, THE FORSAKEN at the Metropolitan Playhouse, in which the **New York Times** called her "the standout performance." She has performed regionally across the country, including at Actors Theatre of Louisville, the Humana Festival, the Auburn Public Theatre, and the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. TV/Film credits include MY CRAZY LOVE (Oxygen), THE PERFECT MURDER (Discovery ID), and LOST IN THE DARK (releasing spring 2018). She is currently performing as Belle and Fred's Wife in A CHRISTMAS CAROL at Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

**Lindsey Carter, BFA '15**, graduated from UW with a B.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Secondary Education English. In 2016, Lindsey was hired by Princess Cruises and has completed two 6-month contracts with the company, dancing aboard a ship in full-length production shows. Onboard, she has traveled to over 30 countries, including most recently those in the British Isles, Baltic region, and Mediterranean. Lindsey is contracted to continue her work with Princess through September 2018.



Dance alumna Lindsey Carter.

**Ben Fairfield, BFA, '12** spent several years in Chicago, graduating from iO Chicago's (Charna Halpern's improv theatre) graduate program, and moving on to the Chicago Improv Den (an extension of Laugh Out Loud Chicago). While there, he trained/performed under improv greats like Dina Facklis and Katie Klein (both iO and Second City), and spent a little over a year working management for Leftend Productions, Step Up Productions, and the Chicago Improv Den. Ben also recently earned a Master's in Organizational Leadership and an MBA in Business Administration. Ben is planning to relocate to Florida to run his own startup improv/sketch theatre company, as well as to produce video/voiceover/film work.

**Hannah Jones, BFA '16** is currently a member of the Bruce E. Coyle Acting Internship Company at the Cincinnati Playhouse.

**Kristen Kissel, BFA, '09**, has been accepted into the Masters of Theology program at Loyola Marymount University.

**Francesca Mintowt-Czyz, BFA, '12** is contracted to tour a musical with the American Drama Group in Germany from February - April 2018. She is also working with the Conservatoire for Dance and Drama, leading workshops for students from Rambert, National Center for Circus Arts, Royal Ballet School, Bristol Old Vic, and RADA. A few graduates from her course have formed a company and their original piece has been selected to be performed at the Wandsworth Fringe Festival in May.

**Christian Munck** is living in Denver, where he's been lucky to perform in several productions he's always wanted to do, including GREY GARDENS, LOBBY HERO, MACK AND MABEL, a stage version of NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD, and an original piece called UNMARRIED IN AMERICA (with fellow UW alumna Missy Moore, directed by her mother Wendy), LA CAGE AUX FOLLE, THE NORMAL HEART. He recently finished a production of THE CRUCIBLE. Last year, Christian won Broadway World's "Best Supporting Actor for the 2015 season," for a production of THE PILLOWMAN. In 2015, he choreographed a show called THE BIG BANG, which received several Henry award nominations, and this year co-directed EVIL DEAD: THE MUSICAL, for Equinox Theatre, which broke the record for most profitable production for that company. He choreographed WILLY WONKA for the Vintage Theatre, and was nominated for his work from Broadway World. Christian also had his play ONE DEATH, PLEASE produced by the Equinox Theatre Company. In March, he makes his Denver directorial debut with MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING for Lost and Found Productions.

**Anne Mason, BFA, '11**, is the founder and Producing Artistic Director of **Relative Theatrics**, a contemporary non-profit theatre company with a mission to bring risky, relevant, real theatre to the community of



Relative Theatrics founder and producing artistic director Anne Mason.



Scott Pardue at SCUFF.



Playwright Neil LaBute (left), Devin Sanchez (front), and Michael Ferrell (right).



Richard Gallagher and Brian Slaten in ANGELS IN AMERICA (photo by Bill Brymer).



James Weber.

## ALUMNI NEWS, cont.

Laramie, Wyoming. A Laramie native, Anne holds a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Wyoming and received additional training from Paul Gemignani and Mark Esposito at CSU Summer Arts. Anne received the New West Drama Conference Musical Theatre Scholarship and is a proud recipient of the Jeff Lee Acting Award and UW's Children's Theatre Award. She has worked professionally with Capital Stage Company, Sacramento Music Circus, California Musical Theatre, Missoula Children's Theatre, Snowy Range Summer Theatre Festival, and the University of Wyoming and is enrolled in the Equity Membership Candidacy Program of Actors' Equity Association. Anne volunteers for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, the Wyoming Art Party Pop-Up Art Walk, and Laramie Walk MS. She has given presentations on empathy and the power of community-driven theatre at Ignite Laramie, Willful Wyoming Women, Laramie Uplift-Inspire, and Laramie Young Professionals. Anne was named one of Laramie's 20 Under 40 Young Professionals in 2016.

**Scott Pardue, BA, '94**, picked up Honorable Mention at the South Carolina Underground Film Festival (SCUFF) for his Short film SMOKE in Charleston, S.C. in November.

**Devin Sanchez, BFA, '04**, appears in the feature film TWENTY MILLION PEOPLE—you can watch it on [iTunes](#). Devin is pictured at the Williamsburg Independent Film Festival, where her film, LAURA GETS A CAT, won Best Feature Award.

**Brian Slaten, BFA, '02**, recently appeared in ANGELS IN AMERICA, PART TWO: PERESTROIKA at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

**James Weber, BTD, '93**, has been at the helm of several New York City-based film and video production companies for many years and is currently working on a number of exciting projects with his new company, [BlueSight Media](#). MYTH is his second project, working alongside Jay Gould. The first was as co-director of the thriller short film HENRY, which was penned by Jay, as well as co-produced. James has produced several successful documentary films, including the BANFF Award-winning FARANG BA (Crazy White Foreigner) and he also worked on FINDING BILLY (a documentary about the hit Broadway musical, BILLY ELLIOT). He was also a producer on the original television pilot, TEMPS, which premiered at the first ever New York Television Festival. Along with producing several national television commercials, James has created and supervised video content for many Fortune 500 companies. His past affiliation with *Entertainment Weekly* has brought him onto the sets of several films and hit television shows, as well as to the Toronto Film Festival, Comic-Con, and The Tribeca Film Festival, where he has produced interview segments for dozens of A-list celebrities. Based in New York for over 20 years, James is well connected to the artists and technicians who work in the city's diverse entertainment industry.





## SIMPSON WINS OBIE AWARD

Pete Simpson, Jr., a UW notable alumnus, is the recipient of an Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Performance, co-presented by the Village Voice and the American Theatre Wing on May 22, 2017, at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Obie Awards®.

The Obie Awards® were created in 1955 by Jerry Tallmer of the Village Voice to salute excellence in off-Broadway and off-off Broadway theatre. Since their inception, the Obies have been purposely structured with informal categories, to recognize persons and productions worthy of distinction in each theatre season.

Grandson of former Wyoming Governor Milward Simpson and a son of Peter Koi and Lynne Simpson, who started their own theatrical company, Spontaneous Theatre Productions, in the early 1970's, Simpson began his performance career by participating in the Casper Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps as a drummer for eight years.

During his time at UW, Simpson was a veteran of the UW stage, appearing in such productions as *ROMEO AND JULIET*, *WEST SIDE STORY*, *BOYS NEXT DOOR*, and *ELEVEN ZULU*. He returned to UW in 2010 as a guest artist to take on the titular role in *HAMLET*, opposite his father, who played the Ghost of Hamlet's Father.

Simpson earned an MFA from the Denver Center Theatre Company's National Theatre Conservatory in 1996, and was soon hired as the newest addition to Blue Man Group, the avant garde-based ensemble that has become an international sensation since its debut in 1991. Simpson has performed, trained, directed, or organized for Blue Man Group for their Boston, New York, Chicago, Amsterdam (NL), Oberhausen (DE), Berlin (DE), and Stuttgart (DE) companies. He has appeared with Blue Man on several TV programs at home and abroad (including Jay Leno and Craig Kilbourne) and has toured with Blue Man internationally with such artists as David Bowie, Moby, and Alicia Keyes.

Simpson is a veteran theatre performer on both the New York and regional theatre scenes. He has worked with other "Downtown" theater artists, performing in such roles as Francis Parkman in Richard Maxwell's *COWBOYS AND INDIANS*, Tommy Tuttle in Richard Foreman's *PARADISE HOTEL* (European tour), and Ned Lud in the Wooster Group's production of *NORTH ATLANTIC* (opposite Willem Dafoe). Recently, he appeared in Young Jean Lee's *STRAIGHT WHITE MEN* and Julia Jarcho's *GRIMLY HANDSOME* and *THE TERRIFYING*. Simpson has also appeared on television in "Law & Order" and "Conan O'Brien," and in spring 2017 starred as Lincoln in "Lincoln in the Bardo," the New York Times' virtual reality film based on George Saunders' novel of the same name.

An accomplished percussionist, Simpson has contributed music to Blue Man's "Audio" and "Complex" CD's, as well as to the soundtrack to the animated feature, "Robots." He is co-founder of the New York-based band, The Petersons. He has served as a guest clinician and arranger for several high school music programs in the U.S. and as a clinician and instructor in acting for Boston University, the Denver Center Academy, and the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He is married to Israeli-American costume designer, Naama Greenfield-Simpson, herself the daughter of notable Israeli painter, Yitzhak Greenfield, and has two children.



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Cici Aragon sorting it out in 26 MILES.

**CiCi Aragon** appeared in Relative Theatrics' production of 26 MILES by Quiara Alegria Hudes.

**Jennifer Deckert** was the recipient of the 2017 Theatre and Dance Fellowship in Creation from the Wyoming Arts Council. Wyoming Arts Council Performing Arts Fellowships are awarded to Wyoming artists based on merit and artistic excellence.

**Kevin Inouye** submitted a final draft of a chapter to the upcoming *Physical Dramaturgy* book, and just printed out the contract for his next book, *The Screen Combat Handbook*, which will fall neatly into the same niche as his

first book, *The Theatrical Firearms Handbook* (Focal Press, 2014). Response to FASCISM! THE MUSICAL, which Kevin helped to direct, was good, and he recently cast for A BRIGHT ROOM CALLED DAY, which runs in early February. Kevin and other faculty recently spoke with several hundred prospective students in Texas Thespian, Wyoming State Drama, and Colorado Thespians ThesCon.

**Marsha Knight** spent much of 2017 on sabbatical in New York conducting research for the upcoming production SIX SONGS FROM ELLIS, and devoted additional time to coordinating efforts to bring in and host the Dance Theatre of Harlem as the 2017 Eminent Artists-in-Residence.

Department Chair **Leigh Selting** teamed up with UWYO alum Jeffrey Baumgartner, Artistic Director of Dunes Summer Theatre located just outside of Chicago, to direct THE MOUSETRAP this past summer. He will return in summer 2018 to direct two shows, WAIT UNTIL DARK and THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE. Leigh spent 2017-2018 on sabbatical working at The Public Theater in NYC.

**Margaret Wilson** and **Neil Humphrey** presented OUTSIDE INSIDE DOWNSIDE UP in August, a Vertical Dance performance in the BCPA Thrust Theatre, which was great venue for exploring new possibilities for Vertical Dance, including the audience space, vomms, and back wall. The piece included eight dancers and *Lights Along the Shore* (Rodney Garnett, Lisa Rickard and Blake McGee). They are planning a performance at Vedauwoo in August 2018.

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY!



### Scott Tedmon-Jones

Assistant Professor, Scenic Design

Scott is excited to return to Laramie and the Department of Theatre and Dance after 15 years of living on the East Coast. He received his MFA in scene design from Carnegie Mellon University and is a member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829.

As a freelance New York City-based designer, Scott has worked on numerous independent theatre productions and is the resident set designer for Animus Theatre Company. As an associate designer, he has worked on regional and off-Broadway productions and in 2015 was the associate for the Broadway premiere of Sam Shepard's FOOL FOR LOVE.

He was previously an adjunct faculty member at The City College of New York and Lehman College. He has been a guest designer at the Juilliard School, NYU/Tisch New Studio on Broadway, The College at Brockport SUNY and the University of Rochester.



The set from 2017's OTHER DESERT CITIES.



# THANK YOU TO THE 2017-2018 FRIENDS OF THEATRE & DANCE!

We invite you to join in the work of UW Theatre & Dance by becoming one of the *2015-2016 Friends of Theatre & Dance*. For a contribution over the cost of a season ticket, you can take pleasure in knowing you are helping our program to succeed and to continue its tradition of excellence.

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## PROMOTER (\$250-499)

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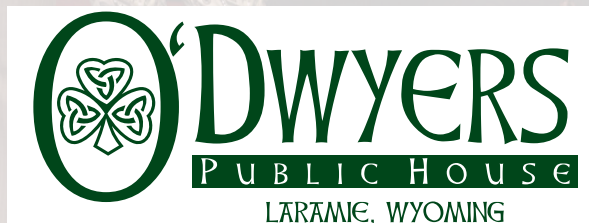
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