



'25 SENIOR CAPSTONES

april 18 + 19
Royall Tyler Theatre; 7:30pm



FEATURING

Don't Move:
Wiley Delisa

When The Morning Cries:
Elsa Althoff

Killing Crows -
A Staged Reading:
Evan Dodge

Will They Like Me?:
Sam Powers

Art in Elementary Education:
Georgia Malone-Wolfsun

Vampire Fang:
Quyn McCaffrey

Us Unparadised:
Maggie Rahilly

Ramped UP:
Theresa Montalbano

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
PROGRAM IN THEATRE AND DANCE



Content warnings: Homophobia, Transphobia, Suicidal Ideation, Adult language

Don't Move

By Wiley Delisa

- Jacob*.....Adam Smith
- Lee*.....Jack Malin
- Jenn*.....Arden Gonzalez
- Alina*.....Laurel Coleman

Stage Directions read by Mac Cruickshank

“It’s 1993, in a theme park, on an island near Costa Rica. Four theatre artists are preparing to perform their one-act play for three scientists, a lawyer, and two kids who will never arrive. They don’t know that they’re in danger. They don’t know that the power will go out. They don’t know that the dinosaurs are already out of their enclosures. This isn’t just any theme park.” This performance features a two scene excerpt from the full-length play written by Wiley. The play is a culmination of Wiley’s love for dinosaurs, his need for plays that discover what it means to make theatre, and his need for transgender stories on the stage.

When The Morning Cries

By Elsa Althoff

- War*.....Ash Collins
- Pollution*.....Audrey Buzza
- Eros*.....Blue Steves
- Philia*.....Grace Fleming De Torres
- Agape*.....Liz Loprinze
- Death*.....Taylor Brock

Originally, Elsa wasn’t sure what they wanted their senior capstone to look like. They played around with the idea of written work and movement, and eventually settled on what takes place on stage tonight. Using somatic movement practices, consent-based structures, and a lot of suggestions, rehearsals became a space in which the cast constructed the show alongside the director. When The Morning Cries has become a process of the creation of joy, the culmination of comfort, and the epitome of pride. Every time Elsa has tried to explain in totality what this show is, there’s always follow up

questions- Elsa asks that you keep that same sense of curiosity throughout the show tonight, and throughout life in general, because as they've learned throughout college and throughout this capstone process, there's no one right answer to anything. This performance piece is a showcase of queer and trans joy, and plays with aesthetic themes inspired by Greek forms of love and the horsemen of the apocalypse. There's a lot going on, so just hold tight and enjoy the disco.

Killing Crows

A Staged Reading by Evan Dodge

Morrison.....read by Yeraz Kaligian

Chelsie.....read by Chloe Hayden

The Crow.....Puppeteered & read by Evan Dodge

Stage Directions read by Emma Luikart

At the core of this project was Evan's continuing desire to play with as many forms of theatre as possible. That curiosity is what initially drove Evan to major in the art form. Through the last four years he's had the opportunity to explore nearly every corner of theatre (at least partially), and although every experience has been amazing, there's been a few that have stuck with them. Apart from acting, the chance to conceptualize, design, and build sets and props was really inspirational. The first prop Evan got to make was a giant severed cow head for a production of *Bat Boy*. He had never created something like that before, and was overjoyed with the final result. Similarly to that experience, Evan chose to explore puppeteering for the first time for this senior capstone.

We hope you enjoy watching the puppet it as much as Evan enjoyed making it!

Will They Like Me?

A one-person show by Sam Powers

Sam.....Sam Powers

Sam's ex's pretentious yoga teacher had a saying: "Alchemize dread into curiosity." That's what Sam decided to do with this performance: to turn her post-grad fears into curious and defanged vignettes. While this is a representation of Sam's brain specifically, they hope you'll be able to connect with some of these anxieties, fears, and hopes.

Special Thanks to Nate Venet for the accompaniment and Rachel Weinfeld for her magnificent vocal coaching.

INTERMISSION

Vampire Fang

By Quyn McCaffrey

Sudo..... Ava Mooney
Marsh.....Josh Hunt
Claudie.....Holly Sullivan

Songs

Strawberry Seed (Act 2, Scene 1).....Claudie
Star on the Water (Act 1, Scene 3).....Marsh
How Can You Fight? (Act 1, Scene 2).....Sudo

Vampire Fang is a 3 act musical in process since June 2024. The story follows a group of young vampires as they struggle with existentialism and journey to break an ancient curse. How can you fight to survive, if now you know you're not going to die? The show features music and words by Quyn McCaffrey.

US UNPARADISED

By Maggie Rahilly

Annie Milton.....Kate Myers
Mary Milton.....Mia Braun

The scene for today's performance is an excerpt from a full-length play that Maggie has been writing and developing for the past two years as a part of her Honors thesis. The title is a variation on *Adam Unparadised* - a dramatic work that John Milton planned to write before arriving at his famous epic poem *Paradise Lost*. Maggie's project seeks to unearth Milton's original plan for *Paradise Lost* by creating a theatrical work out of the Genesis story, only this time with a distinct affinity and affection for Eve. The play explores themes and topics like gender, choice, readership theory, and love over the course of one act and in five scenes, Maggie would like to thank her advisors, Rob Shimko and Leila Teitelman, for sharing their knowledge and mentorship!

Ramped UP

By Theresa Montalbano

Dancers

Elsa Althoff, Katie Benson, Ava Bernstein, Alyssa Cahill,
Zack Civerolo, Wiley Delisa, Georgia Malone-Wolfsun,
Quyn McCaffrey, Maddy Nigrini, Sam Powers

The opportunity to choreograph a 15 minute original piece? Theresa did what any dance lover would do. She hid out in the library, researching her

choreography idols (Blankenbuehler, Fosse, Jones, Bennett, etc.). Each choreographer had their own unique creating process and movement style. She took advantage of these past three months to find her own. Each piece uses a different combination of these resources, ending with what she feels is her own method. The piece follows a chronological journey through college: a microscopic view on proper technique, the naivete of young adult performers, high expectations, conforming to standards, rebelling against procedures, and finding authenticity. Overall, she wants to spread her passion for musical theater with audiences, through this piece and all others.

Senior Capstone Projects completed outside this performance:

***The Thanksgiving Play* Lighting Design by Wren Dumais**

For their capstone project, Wren designed lighting for *The Thanksgiving Play* by Larissa FastHorse here at UVM. The show takes place in a very “woke” classroom with scenes in between being “mini-shows” from different age ranges. Teachers trying to figure out how to respectfully and accurately put on a Thanksgiving play quickly realize that this is not going to be as easy as they thought. Wren utilized real world classrooms and experiences to help portray the openness and welcoming energy of the characters. They also used color theory to create a stark opposition in the interstitial scenes that demonstrated the racism surrounding the teaching of Thanksgiving traditions. Each skit was lit differently based on the content, the genre, how we as a creative team envisioned it to look in its original form. Because all of these skits were based on real theatrical pieces, they tried to create a lighting environment as authentic as possible.

***Spirits to Enforce* Lighting Design by Trevor Gould**

For his senior capstone, Trevor designed lighting for *Spirits to Enforce*, a wonderful play about the role that theatre has in all of our lives, even for superheroes. In his design, he explored the constant nature of flux and how the collaborative aspect of theatre is integral to the production itself. The play was centered around a team of superheroes making cold calls in a submarine at the bottom of a lake in an attempt to fundraise for a production of *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. In the design, Trevor utilized aspects of movement and sterility in the lighting to create an atmosphere of sterility and desperation. The "big reveal" was by far his favorite part as it combined the aspects of the sound design, by friend Pat Boll, and scenic design, by the wonderful and ever graceful Professor Sara Nelson. Through the use of flickering lights and some outside the box thinking, the audience was transported to the world of the play inside the play and had a dramatic backdrop for the climax of the play, when the characters truly came to life in three different ways, a superhero, an

everyday individual, and finally as their true character in *The Tempest*. Trevor is so happy with how the design turned out and could not be thankful enough for the creative team that had his back through all of the ebbs and flows of the creative process.

4 Years of Stage Management by Acadia Johnson

Acadia came into UVM undecided on my major. Still, she found herself waiting to talk to Sara Nelson after an Intro to Theater class to see how she could get involved in the department in any way, shape, or form. Before Acadia's first semester was up, she had declared a Theatre Major and stage managed *It's A Wonderful Life*. Acadia got the bug for stage management and it hasn't gone away. For her senior capstone she stage managed *Spirits to Enforce* in the Fall of 2024. This role taught Acadia a great deal about self, the art form, and the community. Acadia is extremely grateful for both of these shows and all those in between. From rehearsal reports, to scheduling fittings, to calling cues, she would not be who she is today without these opportunities.

Arts Integration in Elementary Classrooms

by Georgia Malone-Wolfson

Last year, Georgia took an education course at UVM with Alexia Buono that explored integrating art into the classroom. It reignited her passion for working with kids and this past semester, she student-taught at a local arts-integrated elementary school, investigating the impact of art in education. Incorporating art and theatre into the everyday classroom helps students grasp complex concepts, supports diverse learning styles, boosts engagement in a tech-driven world, and builds confidence that can have a life-changing impact for many kids. Georgia's hands-on experience at the local Elementary School was unforgettable, and she's deeply grateful to the teachers and students who welcomed her into their classrooms. More about her project can be seen on a table in the lobby!

Creative Team & Crew

Faculty Advisor Leila Teitelman

Production Manager: Sara Nelson

Lighting Designer: Craig Zemsky

Sound Consultant: Craig Zemsky

Stae Manager: Acadia Johnson

Assistant Stage Manager: Nox Giordano

Light Board Operator: Nox Giordano

Light Board Operator: Savannah Arciaga

Run Crew: Wren Dumais

The Graduating Theatre Majors – Class of 2025

Elsa Althoff is a theatre major with an independently-designed minor studying social justice and human diversity. Throughout their college experience they've acted in a variety of shows, including but not limited to *Spirits to Enforce*, *Twelfth Night: The Musical*, and *Salt of the Earth*, a student-written work at VTSU. Elsa's last time directing a show was their senior year at South Burlington High School directing *One and All*, and they are so excited to step back into the role of director with this show. They would like to thank their amazing cast, who played such a big part in developing this show, for their vulnerability, willingness, and undeniable joy. Elsa would also like to thank Clayton Sargent and Theresa Montalbano for still being here, despite it all.

Wiley Delisa (he/him) is a fifth year theatre major and english minor who is excited to finally be graduating. He has had the pleasure of acting in many shows throughout his college career, including *The Addams Family*, *Cry It Out*, *She Loves Me*, and many others. He was also the assistant director for UVM's production of *The Thanksgiving Play*. This is his second play written and his first opportunity to have his work as a playwright read aloud. He would like to thank his parents for their unwavering support in his art, his best friends Rose and Mars Alex for staying friends with him through thick and thin, and his fiancé Sam for everything.

Evan Dodge is just a guy who one day got lost crossing a bridge and ended up as a member of The Pearly Band in his elementary school's production of *Mary Poppins*. Since that day, Evan has continued to cross that bridge in hopes that he would once again become lost and end up a part of a different theater production in a new place and at a new time. This time he wandered until he found himself building a crow puppet in preparation for his Senior Theater Capstone. Through his time spent creating theater, Evan has learned a great deal about himself, those around him, and those whom he has portrayed. Today, he asks you to join him across the bridge and into a reading of his play, *Killing Crows*.

Wren (Marissa) Dumais is a third year Theater major with a Film and Television Studies minor. She plans to graduate this spring with a BA in theatre. She works at the Flynn Theater in downtown Burlington as a stagehand. She has worked on shows such as *Mean Girls* and *Hadestown* throughout her time there. She would like to thank her parents, Charles and Diane, for their help throughout this process. Her past UVM credits include *Dancing Uphill 24'* (lighting design), *Dance Senior Capstones 24'* (lighting design), *Bright Half Life* (light board operator), *Batboy the Musical* (sound tech), *The Thanksgiving Play* (lighting design), and *She Loves Me* (Assistant Stage Manager).

Trevor Gould has loved his four years as UVM and is so excited to continue his adventure. Over his four years with UVM theatre, Trevor has been a part of *Bright Half-Life*, *Spirits to Enforce*, and *She Loves Me*, as well as the lighting designer in four dance department performances! As a waterpark operator, Trevor will continue managing the Romeoville Aquatic center this summer before heading to Graduate School in the fall! He is so thankful to all of the faculty and staff at UVM and is extremely thankful to his parents and friends for their endless support.

Acadia Johnson (She/Her) is a senior theater major from Cornwall Connecticut. She has been stage managing in RTT since freshman year. Recently, she has stage managed *Spirits to Enforce*, *Dance Nation*, and *She Loves Me*. She is very excited to be working on her last show here at UVM with such a wonderful group of people! She would like to thank her roommates and honorary roommates, Maggie, Emily, Trevor, Pat and Ryan for putting up with her tech week hours, her parents for their support, and her brother, Bode, for all that he does. Enjoy the show!

Georgia Malone-Wolfsun grew up building fairy houses and putting on backyard plays with her sister in the green hills of Vermont. She is a Theatre major and a film minor. Since high school, Georgia attended a Musical Theatre dance program at the

Broadway Dance Center in NYC for a year, performed with Girls Nite Out Theatre in Burlington, played Ruthie in *Bat Boy* at UVM, started a YouTube channel sharing fashion and crafts, and discovered her love of sewing her own clothing and designing costumes in the UVM Costume Shop! Next, Georgia hopes to combine her love of all things art and theatre with her passion for elementary education by pursuing teaching elementary school! She spent the semester student-teaching at a local K-5th grade school investigating how and *why* we should integrate art into the classroom! She would like to thank her sister Kelly, her partner Brandon, and her incredible parents for inspiring and encouraging her creativity always.

Quyn Mccaffry: (she/he) is a Senior Theatre major at the University of Vermont, pursuing acting and playwriting, and spends her time singing with the beloved UVM Cat's Meow a cappella group. His previous engagements include the role of Flounder in *Disney's The Little Mermaid* with Lyric Theatre in 2025, Mr. Roy Dillon in *Bat Boy* with UVM Theatre in 2023, and the off-Broadway run of *Aging Magician*, 2017. Quyn has written multiple short plays, but *Vampire Fang* is her first musical!

Theresa Montalbano (she/her) is a theater major and dance minor. She has big dreams to be a musical theatre dancer and choreographer. Most recently, she was co-dance captain and featured dancer for *Wizard of Oz* at The Flynn. Her favorite featured dance roles have been *The Wedding Singer*, *Footloose*, and *Legally Blonde*. She has choreographed for Vermont State University's production of *Hair* and *Twelfth Night the Musical*. She would like to thank her parents, friends, roommates, dancers, and of course her biggest supporter, her dog, Bruiser. Love ya, Bruisey!

Sam Powers (she/they) has strayed at times from theatre (including the first two-and-a-half years of college when they thought they could tone down their personality to become a Computer Science scholar...it did not work), but Sam's always returned to their love of performing. During her college career, she

has been in: *The Prom* with Lyric Theatre playing the bully Kevin (not believable, but no one could hit a G# consistently, including Sam, which the casting team found out a little too late); a devised musical about climate change that toured Vermont (please don't try to find the recording); *Dance Nation* with UVM, where she played a background character that wasn't in the script whom she named Pblorgnaur; and, most recently, *She Loves Me* with UVM, where she was in the ensemble and the understudy for the soprano lead. If you talk to Sam after the show, they ask that your comments are in the form of a compliment sandwich.

Maggie Rahilly is a senior English major and Theatre minor from South Hadley, Massachusetts. Her distinct love of storytelling brought her to these academic and creative disciplines and art forms. When asked, "what are your plans next year?" Maggie insists that she will continue to write and "make" no matter where she is or in what capacity. She would like to thank her family and friends for their overwhelming love and support - especially her parents, John and Jenna, and her sister, Emma. I love you "the most in the universe!" Enjoy the show!

Thank you to our generous supporters!

Your gift to the University of Vermont School of the Arts Program in Theatre and Dance supports everything we do! Donors help fund production costs for our shows, new equipment and material, student scholarships, and awards. By giving to this fund, you are fueling the creativity of our students and faculty.

Go to uvmfoundation.org
to make your contribution now.



Faculty & Staff

Julian Barnett.....	Assistant Professor & Resident Choreographer
Paul Besaw.....	Professor
Millie Heckler.....	Lecturer
Paula Higa.....	Assistant Professor & Resident Choreographer
Chong Ho Kim.....	Lecturer
Kyra Miller.....	Lecturer
Sara Nelson.....	Full Time Lecturer & Production Manager
Julie Peoples-Clark.....	Full Time Lecturer
Zeina Salame.....	Assistant Professor & Resident Director
Lynn Ellen Schimoler.....	Lecturer
Robert Shimko.....	Program Head, Theatre and Dance
Leila Teitelman.....	Full Time Lecturer
Avi Waring.....	Lecturer
Sarah Bush.....	Costume Shop Supervisor
Nate Venet.....	Department Administrative Coordinator
Thomas Lindley.....	Scene Shop Supervisor
Wayne Tetrick.....	Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
Craig Zemsky.....	Sound & Lights Technician – School of the Arts



University
of Vermont

College of Arts and Sciences
School of the Arts
Program in Theatre and Dance

**2025/2026 Production Season for
the Program in Theatre & Dance**

Orange Julius

October 1- 5

By Basil Kreimendahl Directed by Zeina Salame

Embodied Lineage:

Unveiling the forgotten Through Dance

October 24 & 25

Directed & Choreographed by Julie Peoples-Clark

Fefu and Her Friends

November 12 – 16

By Maria Irene Fornés Directed by Leila Teitelman

Dancing Uphill 2026

February 4 – 7

Directed by Julian Barnett

Bernhardt/Hamlet

March 25 – 29

By Theresa Rebeck Directed by Rob Shimko