

A SHARP COMEDY

ABOUT ART, LOVE & AMBITION

BERNHARDT/HAMLET



By Theresa Rebeck

Directed by Rob Shimko

ROYALL TYLER THEATRE, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT MARCH 25, 26, 27, 28 & 29, 2026



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



The University of Vermont School of the Arts
Program in Theatre & Dance
Presents

BERNHARDT/HAMLET

By Theresa Rebeck

Director	~	Rob Shimko
Scenic Designer	~	Sara Nelson
Costume Designer	~	Sarah Sophia Lidz
Lighting Designer	~	John Paul Devlin
Sound Designer	~	Elizabeth Indorato
Fight Choreographer	~	Andy Butterfield
Intimacy Choreographer	~	Kianna Bromley
Vocal Coach	~	Kyra Miller
Dramaturg	~	Grace Fleming de Torres
Props Master	~	Ethan Humphrey
Production Stage Manager	~	Laurel Coleman
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Blue Steves
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Jess Burke
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Kameron Robinson
Assistant Director	~	Charlie Bolduan
Assistant Costume Designer	~	Audrey Buzza
Assistant Scenic Designer	~	Alexis Lindsay
Assistant Lighting Designer	~	Nox Giordano

CAST

<i>Sarah Bernhardt</i>	Arden Gonzalez
<i>Constant Coquelin</i>	Henry Motes
<i>Edmond Rostand</i>	Adam Smith
<i>Alphonse Mucha</i>	Aiden Blow
<i>Maurice</i>	Andrew North
<i>Louis</i>	Tucker Hessel
<i>Rosamond</i>	Kate Myers
<i>Lysette</i>	Carol Arentz
<i>Raoul</i>	Emma Pascal
<i>François</i>	Jack Gardner
<i>Ensemble</i>	Ashlyn Baum, Kai Haddock, Isabella Silva

Bernhardt/Hamlet is produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.

Setting: Paris, 1897

This performance will be presented in two acts
with one, 12-minute intermission

Content Acknowledgement

This performance contains adult themes, simulated intimacy,
and stage combat.

The Company

<i>Stage Manager</i>	~	Laurel Coleman
<i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>	~	Jess Burke, Kameron Robinson, Blue Steves

SCENERY & PROPS

Scenic/Properties Running Crew.....Hugh Boyle, Faith Murray, Lizzie Seng-Ty
Scenery Construction.....Kailyn Baugh, Ashlyn Baum, Sophia Berger, Ava Cambra, Ian
Carpenter, Isabelle Gil, Sydney Heiges, Ezekiel Lorenzo, Emma Maclaren, Leda
Consejo Malazarte, Rory Siobhan McDermott, Kate Meyers, Mira Pompei-Ulatowski,
Catherine Quinn, Hannah Risner, Sierra Whitaker, Grace Fleming de Torres
Scenic Charge Artist.....Luca Ardizzone-West
Paint Call Support.....Cooper Anderson, Laurel Denver, Jacke Gardner,
Silvie Lane, Keira Smith, Luke Tatro, Jackie Thomas
Workshop Assistant.....Anders Thlemarck

COSTUME

Wardrobe HeadEmma Cowper
Wardrobe Crew.....Anna Blackburn, Sinead Keane, Georgia Paine, Kieran Roberts,
Keira Smith
Wig and Hair Assistant.....Liz Loprinze
Wardrobe Construction.....Hugh Boyle, Audrey Buzzza, Emma Cowper,
Franny Daleo-Clark, Jenna Feretti, Isabelle Gil, Alex Huber, Sinead Keane,
Alexis Lindsay, Andrew North, Elsie Pawul, Georgia Paine, Kieran Roberts,
Sophia Rosen, Eleanor Sweeny, PJ Summers, Tovahn Vitols, Haley Weed

LIGHTING & SOUND

Master Electrician.....Craig Zemsky
Electricians....Zane Twining Baker, Cleo Blanding, Ezra Case, Laurel Coleman,
Ethan Humphrey, Geo Klapow, Cameron Lino, Hero McCarty, Clare McCormack,
Henry Robinson, Nina De Silva
Light Board Operator.....Cleo Blanding
Sound Board Operators.....Zach Puritz
Gobo Design Artist.....Hana Risner

FRONT OF HOUSE

House Manager.....Wiley Delisa, Haley Weed

Directors Note ~

Although the term ‘iconic’ is often overused, it truly applies to the bombastic French actress Sarah Bernhardt, who was among the most world-famous personages of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She enjoyed a reputation as the greatest actress of her time, rivaled only by the more austere and naturalistic Elenora Duse. Bernhardt’s immense fame was augmented by international touring (including performances in New England and Montreal), appearances in early silent films (she was the first person ever to portray Hamlet on screen in the 1900 short film *Le Duel d'Hamlet*), and via a series of stunning and widely reprinted theatre posters painted by her longtime friend Alphonse Mucha.

Bernhardt/Hamlet both celebrates Sarah Bernhardt—portraying her in a heroic light as she challenges conventional expectations in her decision to cast herself as Hamlet—while also delving into less flattering but highly human aspects of her biography. We see her as a mother, a romantic partner, a boss (much of the play is set in the theatre she bought and named after herself), and above all as an artist. Further, we get to see Bernhardt as the savvy cultivator of her own outsized public persona. Not unlike her contemporary Oscar Wilde in England, Bernhardt showed a remarkable talent for self-mythologizing. She was the daughter of a Dutch Jewish courtesan living in Paris. Her parents never married, and the identity of her father remains an unresolved mystery. After discovering a talent for acting at an early age, she rose through the ranks of the Parisian theatre to become renowned for her dynamic physical presence and her commanding voice. Above all, she was prized by critics and audiences for her profoundly moving death scenes, most notably as the ill-fated lead character *La Dame aux Camélias*, better known in English as *Camille*. Bernhardt’s personal life was also the subject of intense scrutiny by the popular press. She had a number of love affairs, kept a menagerie of unusual pets, and attracted publicity through outrageous behavior such as sleeping in a coffin and wearing otherwise fashionable hats topped with taxidermized bats.

Bernhardt/Hamlet combines so many things that I love about the theatre. It was a hit on Broadway in 2018 and rightfully so. It has comedy, romance, heartache, family drama, swordplay, exciting visual style, larger-than-life historical personalities, and deeply resonant themes about the tumultuous aspects of the artistic drive and the struggles of personal self-fashioning. It also presents a wonderful array of challenges for the cast, designers, and crew, which has made it an incredibly valuable pedagogical, as well as artistic, experience for our creative team. It also happens to be written by one of my favorite American playwrights, Theresa Rebeck. Theresa is the most produced woman playwright in Broadway history and something of an icon herself. She and I taught together for years while I was the Director of the School of Theatre & Dance at the University of Houston, where she held a Distinguished Chair in Playwriting. She and I talked often about Bernhardt and *Hamlet* while she was writing the play, and I’m so happy to get the chance to share it with everyone here at UVM.

Rob Shimko
Program Head for Theatre & Dance

Who's who in the cast of Bernhardt/Hamlet

Carol Arentz (*Lysette*)

Carol is a sophomore at UVM studying Zoology with a minor in Film and Television Studies. Originally from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, she was involved in theatre from a very young age. Her most recent roles include Ms. Hannigan in *Annie* and Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods*. She's excited for her debut in the Royall Tyler Theater and would like to thank the incredible cast and crew for their hard work in putting this production together! She also appreciates the audience members for supporting the arts in coming to see *Bernhardt/Hamlet*.

Ashlyn Baum (*Ensemble*)

Ashlyn is a sophomore at UVM studying Theatre and Political Science with a minor in Philosophy. She is from a small town in West Texas and has been performing since she was 6 at her local community theatre, Amarillo Little Theatre. Her past credits include Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, Liesl in *The Sound of Music*, Dorothy Brock in *42nd Street*, and many more. She is very excited to be making her Royall Tyler Theatre debut and would like to thank Rob for giving her the opportunity to be a part of this lovely team, her parents and friends for their endless support and encouragement, the entire cast and crew for their talent, hard work, and kindness, and her grandmother for inspiring her every single day. Thank you all so much for coming out to support us - enjoy!

Aiden Blow (*Alphonse Mucha*)

Aiden Blow (Alphonse Mucha) is a freshman Theater/Chemistry dual major at UVM and is delighted to be making his debut at Royall Tyler Theatre! His most recent theatre credits include *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch Mahoney), *Hadestown: Teen Edition* (Orpheus), and *Pippin* (Pippin). He would like to thank his family, friends, and girlfriend for their continual support of his passion for the performing arts. He also would like to thank and acknowledge the cast and crew for making his first UVM show such a positive and fulfilling experience.

Jack Gardner (*Francois*)

Jack Gardner (he/him) is a freshman double-majoring in Theatre and Business and is thrilled to take part in his first-ever UVM production! His previous credits include *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, *Legally Blonde*, *Almost Maine*, and *Urinetown (The Musical)*! He is incredibly grateful for his friends and family for their unwavering love and support. He also extends his thanks to the production's cast and crew for being so kind, dedicated, and welcoming. Enjoy the show!

Arden Gonzalez (*Sarah Bernhardt*)

Arden is a junior with a major in Theatre. Her past UVM Theatre & Dance credits include *Fefu and Her Friends* (Cindy), *She Loves Me* (ASM), *Shimmering Site* (Narrator/Dancer), *Spirits to Enforce* (Donna Adams), and *Dance Nation* (Zuzu). She would like to thank the talented cast and crew for all of their hard work in bringing this powerful script to life. As always, she sends love to her friends and family for their endless support.

Kai Haddock (*Ensemble*)

Kai Haddock is a theater major here at UVM. He graduated last year from Harwood Union High School and is very excited for his Royal Tyler Theater debut. In the past, Kai has been in *The Laramie Project* (Aaron Mckinney + more), *Anything Goes* (Moonface Martin), *Treasure Island* (Long John Silver), and much more. He would like to thank the director Rob Shimko, the cast, and the crew for their hard work for this performance.

Tucker Hessel (*Louis*)

Tucker Hessel appears as Louis in this production. A theater and psychology major, Tucker has been acting since the fifth grade and has developed a particular interest in historical productions. He enjoys exploring how stories from the past can be brought to life on stage and shared with modern audiences. Tucker is grateful for the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and crew and continues to learn from every rehearsal and performance. He hopes you enjoy the show as much as he has enjoyed being part of bringing it to life. Thank you for supporting live theater.

Henry Motes (*Constant Coquelin*)

Henry is a senior Environmental Sciences major (with a minor in Musical Theatre!) at UVM, equally delighted and distraught to be sharing his last performance in the RTT with you all. Across five productions with the University (from *Walking* (2022) to *She Loves Me* (2025) to *Bernhardt/Hamlet* (tonight!)), Henry has learned many invaluable lessons regarding the importance of discipline, laughter, and all things shiny. He thanks Dr. Shimko for his vision, this incredible cast and crew for their brilliance, and Constant Coquelin, who reminds him to never shy from a good story. Enjoy the show, Henry certainly will!

Kate Myers (*Rosamond*)

Kate Myers is a senior Theatre major at UVM. She feels extremely fortunate to have worked alongside such a kind and hilarious cast and production team during her last main stage rehearsal process. Her past credits on the Royal Tyler stage include *Imogen Says Nothing* (Imogen) and *Spirits to Enforce* (Rebecca Lloyd), as well as having assistant stage managed *Dance Nation*. She has been so lucky to work with such an involved and cohesive department of uniquely

skilled artists over the last four years. She is grateful most of all to her family who have always supported her entirely.

Andrew North (*Maurice*)

Andrew is a Freshman at UVM, overjoyed to be joining his first production at the Royall Tyler Theater. He is double majoring in Theatre and Dance, with a Minor in Spanish. He's a Vermonter who discovered his passion for Theatre in High School, with previous credits including Kenickie in *Grease*, Kurt Kelly in *Heathers*, and Mr Stapleton, Mr Barrymore, The Hound, Milker, Victor, Sir Charles, Sir Hugo, Man with Black Beard, and Trap Driver in *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*. He is honoured to be working with such a skilled cast and crew, and dedicates tonight's performance to his Father.

Emma Pascual (*Raoul*)

Emma Pascual is a 1st year theatre major, *Bernhardt/Hamlet* being Emma's first show acting at UVM. Emma grew up in Vermont and acted in various shows throughout high school, some favorites including *Hadestown* and *Young Frankenstein*. To the cast and crew of this show: thank you all for being an amazing group of people. You've made my first show here a wonderful experience. I hope to continue to get to know you all.

Isabella Silva (*Ensemble*)

Isabella is a senior and UVM and an advanced Master's student in history. This is Isabella's first show at the Royall Tyler Theatre, and she is so excited to be welcomed into UVM's theatre family! Some of Isabella's previous shows include *Scenes from Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet/the Nurse/ Friar Lawrence), *10 Ways to Survive the End of the World* (News reporter/ Evil Monkey/Evil Toaster), and *The Field Project* (The Goth). She'd like to thank her family, friends, and cats (Calvin and Hobbes) and she hopes you enjoy the show!

Adam Smith (*Edmond Rostand*)

Adam is ecstatic to be working with UVM Theater this spring. Adam has worked onstage with UVM Theater previously acting in *Bat Boy*, *Imogen Says Nothing* and *The Thanksgiving Play*, and offstage as the AD for *Fefu and her Friends*. Outside the RTT, Adam is pursuing an accelerated Masters in Secondary English Education, completing his Bachelors and making fun videos: Adam's latest film *Skidmore College* recently won "Best Picture" at UVM's Green and Golden Globes. Adam hopes you enjoy the performance and that you also painstakingly type the following link into a web browser of your choice to (at some point) watch his aforementioned video:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSkivdZyFu4

Special Thanks to:

Paul Decausemaker & Maggie Archibold
Dan from Films by the Year

Who's who on the creative team of *Bernhardt/Hamlet*

Charlie Bolduan (*Assistant Director*)

Charlie is a senior anthropology major and theatre minor at UVM. Charlie is originally from Seattle, Washington and has been involved in theatre since his freshman year of highschool. *Bernhardt/Hamlet* is his fifth and final show at the Royall Tyler Theatre and he couldn't be more excited to be working with this great cast and crew. He would like to thank director Rob Shimko and production manager Sara Nelson for making his theater experience at UVM phenomenal, both in the theatre and the classroom.

Kianna Bromley (*Intimacy Choreographer*)

Kianna Bromley (she/her) is a Montpelier-based performing artist, director, and certified intimacy choreographer. She is delighted to support the University of Vermont's Mainstage production of *Bernhardt/Hamlet*. With more than 20 years of experience directing, choreographing, and designing for the stage, Kianna brings a collaborative, consent-forward approach to staging moments of intimacy and connection in performance. She holds a K-12 Theater Arts Educator's License in Vermont and an MBA from the University of Vermont.

Kianna is the Founder and President of the Montpelier Performing Arts Hub and serves on the board of Lost Nation Theater. She trained at Circle in the Square Theatre & School in NYC and the University of Vermont, and continues to work throughout Vermont as a performer, director, and creative collaborator.

Jess Burke (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Jess is a second year Theatre and English double major at UVM. She is from Louisville, Kentucky, and has been heavily involved in the theatre since she was 8 years old. At UVM, she was most recently Cecelia in *Fefu and Her Friends*. This is her first production credit at UVM, and she could not be more excited about this opportunity! She would like to thank her friends and family for always supporting her, as well as Laurel and Sara Nelson for being fantastic mentors throughout this process. Enjoy the show!

Andy Butterfield (*Fight Choreographer*)

Andy last designed stage violence for UVM's production of *Orange Julius* (2025). Recent combat credits include *Beasts of Crete* (Between the Willows), *Twelfth Night* (Saint Michael's College), *Romeo & Juliet* (NEYT), and *The Fantasticks* (Weston Theater Company), among workshops and festivals. Andy's career highlights include the Los Angeles Ovation Award-nominated *As You Like It*, a season at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco (*The Real Thing*, *The Goat: or Who is Sylvia?*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *A Moon for the Misbegotten*), and NBC's *Medium*. Regionally, he has

worked with Vermont Stage, Middlebury Acting Company, and Lost Nation Theater.

Andy brings a collaborative, story-driven approach to fight design, with a focus on safety, clarity, and theatricality that supports both the director's vision and the actors' work on stage.

Audrey Buzza (*Assistant Costume Designer*)

Audrey Buzza is a Senior Theatre Major here at UVM and is incredibly thankful that she has gotten to be so involved with this department. Recently, she performed as Emma Blake in *Fefu and Her Friends* and as Amalia Balish in *She Loves Me*. She also costume designed *Spirits to Enforce* in Fall of 2024. She is deeply grateful for all she has learned assisting Sophia Lidz and working with Sara Bush in the costume shop. She cannot thank the UVM Theatre Department enough for how much she has grown with their support.

Laurel Coleman (*Production Stage Manager*)

Laurel is a junior English and Theatre double major, and this is her 3rd production at UVM. She was on wardrobe crew for *Spirits to Enforce* and an ASM for *She Loves Me*. This is her first time taking on the role of Stage Manager, and she has learned so much. She would like to thank Rob, Sara, and the entire cast and crew for making this such a wonderful experience. She would also like to thank her sister, Lily, for always encouraging her to stick with her love of theatre. Enjoy the show!

John Paul Devlin (*Lighting Designer*)

John Paul Devlin has been a Professor of Performing Arts at Saint Michael's College for the last 25 years. He is the resident scenic and lighting designer and technical director. John has over 450 production credits stretching back to the early 1980s. His lighting was last seen on the Royall Tyler Theatre stage in *Bright Half Life* by Tanya Barfield in 2023. He has designed scenery and lighting for the Black Hills Playhouse, Lost Nation Theater, Middlebury Acting Company, Slow Shapes Dance, Lines Vermont, ANIMAL Dance, Saint Michael's Playhouse, Moonbox Productions, Vermont Stage, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Northern Stage, and The Milwaukee Rep among others. John will be retiring from academia at the end of this academic year to pursue a freelance design career. He lives in Bolton with his wife Carol—her continuing support makes his career in the arts possible.

Nox Giordano (*Assistant Lighting Designer*)

Nox Giordano (he/they) is thrilled to present *Bernhardt/Hamlet* as their senior capstone as the Assistant Lighting Designer! This will be their seventh show with UVM Theatre, with previous productions including *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Orange Julius*, *She Loves Me*, *Spirits to Enforce*, *Dance Nation*, and *Bat Boy: The Musical*. As their time at UVM comes to a close, they would like to thank Craig

Zemsky, Sara Nelson, and Dr. Robert Shimko, who all saw a spark and helped turn it into a fire. Following graduation, he hopes to continue to follow his passion for lighting design, following the completion of his B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and B.A. in Theater.

Ethan Humphrey (*Props Master*)

Ethan is a third-year student at the University of Vermont who grew up in a small town in the Penobscot Valley of Maine. He has been involved in theatre since middle school and developed an early interest in both performance and production. Since coming to UVM, he has shifted his focus from acting to technical and design work. Ethan currently works in the Lighting Department at the Royall Tyler Theatre and has contributed to productions in many roles, including run crew, audio, lighting, and props. He has particular experience in prop design, with credits including *A Thanksgiving Play* (Fall 2024) and *Orange Julius* (Fall 2025).

Elizabeth Indorato (*Sound Designer*)

Bernhardt/Hamlet marks Elizabeth's first work in the Royal Tyler Theater since the pandemic and her first credit as a member of the design team. After graduating from UVM with a BA in Music with a concentration in business and technology in spring of 2023, she designed Shelburne Community School's production of *Spongebob: The Musical* (2024) and Full Circle Theater's *Pippin* (2024). Elizabeth spends her days as Festival & Event Coordinator for Burlington City Arts and her nights pondering life's many mysteries with her beautiful 7-year-old domestic medium hair cat, Brooke. She would like to thank Zachary Williamson for introducing her to a career in sound design, and Sadie Kraus for all the insight offered in the design process as well as her continued companionship.

Alexis Lindsay (*Assistant Scenic Designer*)

Alexis Lindsay is a Third-Year student at UVM pursuing Theater and Classics. As a recently declared Theater major, they are very excited to finally join the department and pursue technical theater. Last semester, Alexis was Sound-Board Operator for *Fefu and Her Friends*, and she cannot wait to see what other opportunities lie ahead! A huge thank you goes out to her Dad for the endless support, to Jacob, their best friend and future creative partner, to everyone involved, and to YOU for supporting the arts! Enjoy the show :)

Sarah Sophia Lidz (*Costume Designer*)

The costumes for this production would not have been possible without the left brain to my right, Sarah Bush. Thank you for your beautiful draping as well as leading a group of smart and dedicated students to the finish line and beyond. Audrey, thank you for your Design Assistance, I will look forward to chance meetings in NYC's Garment District.

Design Credits include; Innovention Film, *Under the Pear Tree*, UVM: *Fefu and her Friends*, *She Loves Me!*, *Imogen Says Nothing*, *BAT BOY!*. Vt Stage Company: *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Cadillac Crew*, *AIRNESS!*, *Women in Jeopardy*, *The Thin Place*. Middlebury College: *The Walls*, “*Virtuous Fall*”, Middlebury Actors Company: *A Christmas Carol*.

Design Associate Credits; The Victoria’s Secret Fashion Show, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Las Vegas: *Peepshow*. Broadway Credits: *Motown the Musical*, *Baby it’s You*, *Lend me a Tenor*, *Elf*, *Grease*, *Ragtime*, *Legally Blonde*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *110 in the Shade*, *The Farnsworth Invention* and *Inherit the Wind*.

Kyra Miller (*Vocal Coach*)

Kyra Miller has taught acting in the UVM Department of Theater and Dance since 2024. A New Yorker born and raised, she moved to Vermont in 2020. Her professional work as an actor work spans musicals, classical plays, contemporary and devised theater, puppetry, storytelling and solo work, at venues ranging from off-Broadway theaters, Joe’s Pub, and large regional houses all over the country, to tiny black boxes, the back rooms of bars, and in audition rooms all over the city. Currently, her short puppet film *BlueBeard GasLight*, which she wrote, designed and directed, is on the festival circuit, and has received international recognition at festivals in Lisbon, Graz, Kyoto, London and Amsterdam as well as closer to home in Albany, Phoenix and Cleveland, supported by grants from the Vermont Arts Council, the Puffin Foundation and the Puppeteers of America. She has taught acting at the University of Washington, Tulane University and at the American Academy of Dramatic Art, among others. A certified teacher of the Alexander Technique, she is also an affiliate member of the voice faculty in the School of Music. MFA, University of Washington PATP; proud member AEA. kyramillernyc.com

Sara Nelson (*Scenic Designer*)

Sara Nelson is the resident scenic designer, production manager, and full-time lecturer for the Program in Theatre and Dance here at UVM. In addition to those roles, much of her work is focused on mentoring students through the design and production process. Sara is a member of USITT and has also presented work on collaboration and the creative process for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education. Selected Design: *Popcorn Falls*, *Desperate Measures* (Saint Michael’s Playhouse), *Fefu and Her Friends*, *Orange Julius*, *The Thanksgiving Play*, *Spirits to Enforce*, *Dance Nation*, *Imogen Says Nothing*, *Bright Half Life*, *Batboy*, *Walking*, *She Kills Monsters*, *Blue Window*, *Enemy of The People*, *Shakespeare In Love*, *The Normal Heart*, *The Wolves* (University of Vermont); *Big Love*, *Cabaret*, *Eurydice* (Northern Vermont University); *Spring Fling: First Love* (F*It Club); *This Time* (Workshop presented by Rising Circle Theater Collective); *Spring Fling: My Best/Worst Date Ever* (NYIT Nom) (F*It Club); *The*

Trestle at Pope Lick Creek, *The Laramie Project* (Adelphi University); *HMS Pinafore*, *Grease* (Arizona Broadway Theatre). MFA University of Montana.

Kameron Robinson (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Kameron is a sophomore Social Work Major at UVM minoring in writing and theater from Salisbury, Maryland. He is very excited to be working on his first show here as an assistant stage manager and is very appreciative of all of the students and faculty of Royal Tyler Theater for being so welcoming and supportive! Thank you to Laurel for being such a kind and hard-working stage manager! Enjoy the show!

Rob Shimko (*Director*)

Dr. Rob Shimko is the Program Head for Theatre & Dance and the Associate Director for Operations in the University of Vermont School of the Arts. Before joining UVM, Rob served as the Director of the School of Theatre & Dance at the University of Houston and the Executive Director of the Houston Shakespeare Festival. From 2010 to 2023, Rob was the Company Dramaturg for the Catastrophic Theatre, Houston's leading avant-garde theatre troupe. Rob has over seventy-five professional dramaturgy credits including the Alley Theatre, the Guthrie Theater, the Acting Company, Stages Repertory Theatre, Harlem Stage, 4th Wall Theatre, and the Classical Theatre Company, among others. Rob is a widely published theatre historian whose books include *Alley Theatre: 75 Years* and *Public Theatres and Theatre Publics*. His current book project is a monograph on the playwright Will Eno. Rob is a former Book Review Editor for the journal *Theatre History Studies* and a recipient of the Robert A. Schanke Theatre History Research Award. He is the author of the play *Specks*, available through Concord Theatricals. At UVM, he previously directed the play *Spirits to Enforce*.

Blue Steves (*Assistant Stage Manager*)

Blue Steves is a 3rd year Theatre Major at UVM. They are so happy to be back and working in the RTT after a semester abroad. Despite having stage managed for the theatre department before this is their first time assistant stage managing and they are having a blast. Lots of love to the cast and crew, we are going to kill it!

Grace Fleming de Torres (*Dramaturg*)

Grace Fleming de Torres is a junior double-majoring in Theatre and English. She is beyond excited to be working on her fourth show with UVM Theatre & Dance! Past credits include: *Fefu and Her Friends* (Dramaturg), *She Loves Me* (Assistant Director), and *Imogen Says Nothing* (Assistant Director). She would like to congratulate and thank the crazy-talented cast and crew for their hard work in bringing this spectacular show to life. She sends much love to her friends and family for their endless support, and to Sarah Bernhardt, for living with such extraordinary courage. Enjoy the show!

About the playwright ~

Theresa Rebeck is a prolific playwright, screenwriter, director, and educator. Born on February 19, 1958, in Kenwood, Ohio, Rebeck set her sights on the theatre from an early age. In a 2019

interview with *Vermont Magazine*, she fondly recounted her younger years attending a Catholic girls' school, tracing her interest in theatre back to the times she spent at \$5 student matinees at

Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, falling in love from the audience. In the same interview, she confessed, "I sort of decided I was going to be a writer before I even knew how to make a decision."

After telling her mother that she wanted to become a playwright at age 16, she pursued that goal tirelessly via her education. Rebeck received her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1980, followed shortly by an MFA in playwrighting and a PhD in Victorian melodrama, both from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts. Only one year after receiving her PhD in 1990, Theresa Rebeck moved to New York and began writing for both the stage and television. One of her first major successes was as a writer for the police drama *NYPD Blue* from 1995 to 1996, earning her a Mystery Writers of America Edgar Award, a Peabody Award, and a Writers Guild of America Award for Episodic Drama. Her work for the stage was propelled into mainstream success in 2003, when she co-wrote the play *Omnium Gatherum* with Alexandra Gersten-Vassilaros, which had a successful Off-Broadway run and became one of 3 finalists for the 2004 Pulitzer Prize. Over the course of the 2000s, Rebeck wrote numerous works ranging from novels to screenplays, including her credit as a series creator for NBC's 2011 musical drama *Smash*, based on the concept by Stephen Spielberg. Over the course of her career, Theresa Rebeck's plays *Mauritius*, *Seminar*, *Dead Accounts*, *Bernhardt/Hamlet*, and *I Need That* have all had runs on Broadway, making her the most Broadway-produced female playwright of our time. She has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including the William Inge New Voices Playwriting Award, the PEN/Laura Pels Foundation Award, and a Lilly Award. Aside from her creative output, Rebeck has also taught playwrighting at her alma mater, Brandeis, Columbia University, and the University of Houston, where she met UVM Theatre's own, Dr. Rob Shimko. She currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, former stage manager Jess Lynn, and their two children, Cooper and Cleo. Rebeck is also a part-time resident of Vermont and a longtime patron of the Dorset Theatre Festival, where her latest work, *The Understudy*, will premiere this summer.

When people question her as to why she continues to work in the theatre, she claims the answer is always simple: "Well, because it's beautiful."

Grace Fleming de Torres
Dramaturg



Faculty & Staff

- Julian Barnett.....Assistant Professor & Resident Choreographer
- Paul Besaw.....Professor
- Millie Heckler.....Lecturer
- Paula Higa.....Assistant Professor & Resident Choreographer
- 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
- Dr. Rob Shimko.....Program Head, Theatre and Dance
- Leila Teitelman.....Full Time Lecturer
- Avi Waring.....Lecturer
- Sarah Bush.....Costume Shop Supervisor
- Nate Venet.....Program Administrative Coordinator
- Thomas Lindley.....Scene Shop Supervisor
- Wayne Tetrick.....Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
- Craig Zemsky.....Sound & Lights Technician – School of the Arts

For more information about the program go to:
uvm.edu/cas/theatreanddance



University
of Vermont

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

Additional Spring 2026 Semester Events from the Program in Theatre & Dance

The Senior Theatre Majors Capstone Projects

Performances will be April 17 & 18 at 7:30PM
Royall Tyler Theatre

Presentation of capstone projects by members of the
graduating class of seniors in the Theatre program.

The Senior Dance Majors Capstone Projects

Performances will be April 24 - 25 at 7:30PM
Cohen Hall Performance Studio - Room 110
14 South Williams Street, Burlington, VT

Presentation of capstone projects choreographed and
performed by members of the graduating class of seniors
in the Dance program.

Thank you to our generous supporters!

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