

Scene Shop Assistants Jalal Akel, Bryana Belling,
Luke Bosco, Lily Davis, Angela Kwebiiha,
Edwin Mungia, Estrella Soto, William Waisnor III,
Liz Zabat, Fiona Herter

Props Master Xinjuan Li
Deck Crew Darrow Sherman,
Parker Traphagan, Lianglingjia Zheng

LIGHTING DEPARTMENT

Production Master Electrician Isaac Bayne
Console Operator Seven Folger
Electrics Shop Assistants/
Build Crew Melissa Smith, Liz Diamond,
Paul Nassif, Jordan Mitchell, Tom Kelleher

SOUND DEPARTMENT

Board Operator Barnard Krouch
Sound Crew Ruari Morrison,
Matthew Suchecki

COSTUME AND MAKE-UP DEPARTMENT

Assistant Costume
Shop Manager Felicia Malachite
First Hands
Stitchers
Costume Build Crew Maegan Allen,
Eloise Arnold, Chelsea Cannon, Arianna Morales,
Kayla Marshall
Costume Crew Chief
Costume Run Crew Dylan Castro, Jemma
Kepner, Logan Miles, Joan Lee, Mingyan Zhu,
Emma Stankiewicz
Makeup Crew Chief
Makeup Run Crew Elizabeth Machado,
Emma Perakis, Will Harrington

PUBLICITY, HOUSE AND BUSINESS STAFF

Public Relations Director
and House Manager Anna-Maria Goossens
Public Relations Assistants Cynthia Gonzalez,
Spark Zhang
Archival Photographer Derek Fowles
Poster Design Artist Brett Bailey
Assistant House Manager Erin Eggers
Box Office Managers Althea McCrory,
Arianna Morales
House and Publicity Crew Phoebe Bell,
Faolain Bobersky, Erica Brown, Greg Ford,
Matthew Gover, Maya Kosztolitz, Virginia Preston,
Nikiesha Rose, Isabella Vitti, Max Winalski
Business Manager Joanne Corbeil-Harper
Administrative Assistant Bethany Sherwood

Office Assistant
Department Chair
General Manager

Kimberly Zuber
Harley Erdman
Willow Cohen

Join us for our 2019-2020 Season

THE BACCHAE OF EURIPIDES

By Wole Soyinka | Directed by Judyie Al-Bilali
Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30 | Nov. 16 at 2
School matinee Nov. 13 at 10
Curtain Theater
Ecstatic dance and music fuel political uprising in Soyinka's adaptation of Euripides' classic play about a god and the despot who attempts to control him.

UMASS NEW PLAY LAB

Produced by Maegan Clearwood, Tatiana Godfrey, and Josh Glenn-Kayden | Directed by Josh Glenn-Kayden
Show #1: Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 6 at 7:30, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.
Show #2: Feb. 14, 15, & 20 at 7:30, Feb. 22 at 2 p.m.
Curtain Theater
Play Lab is part of the national movement to present a vibrant range of experiences on stage through cutting-edge works from up and coming theater makers.

THE WATER STATION (Mizu no eki)

by Ōta Shōgo
Directed by Vishnupad Barve
Feb. 27, 28, 29, March 4, 5, 6, 7 at 7:30 | March 7 at 2
Rand Theater
No words are spoken in this work, but much is communicated in a space transformed by water, light, movement, and sound.

MR. BURNS, A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

By Anne Washburn
Songs by Michael Friedman
Directed by Erin Nicole Eggers
April 9, 10, 16, 17, 18 at 7:30 | April 11 & 18 at 2
School matinee April 15 at 10
Curtain Theater
In Anne Washburn's darkly funny, grandly operatic *Mr. Burns*, survivors of a nuclear apocalypse may not have much, but they have Bart Simpson, Sideshow Bob, and Gilbert and Sullivan.

More at www.umass.edu/theater

UMass Amherst Theater

2019-20

***The Bacchae of Euripides:
A Communion Rite***

By Wole Soyinka
Directed by Judyie Al-Bilali



Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16 at 7:30
Nov. 16 at 2
School matinee Nov. 13 at 10
The Curtain Theater

Dionysus and his magnificent initiates, the Bacchantes, have come back for me. I met them twenty years ago when I directed this same adaptation by distinguished Nigerian Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka. I embraced his vision as it foregrounds the social and political transformations inherent to the ancient drama, and now two decades later, Soyinka's script rings even more true as we face unprecedented environmental, ecological, and spiritual challenges.

A play is relevant after 2,400 years because it illuminates primal forces, notable among them, sexuality. Dionysus, called by many names including 'The Liberator' has often symbolized gender fluidity. In the rigid caste system of ancient Greece, his devotees included slaves, women, and foreigners -- allowing those usually excluded to participate in the annual Dionysian festivals.

Our play is set in 2020, just across the threshold into the upcoming decade, at the pivot point of a new era in human history. Our location is Gaia, the mythological Greek name recognizing our beloved and beleaguered planet Earth as a sentient, living goddess. Right now, Gaia demands our attention. She calls us beyond ideology to unity, a call we must heed for our survival as a species.

Myth is how we navigate and ultimately evolve both individual and collective psyches. Myth must change for us to grow. Artists are the antennae for society and we are re-imagining Euripides' myth of Dionysus to address our need for balance between reason and passion. This timeless play tells us where to look for balance in a world twisted by the desire for power and control. The Bacchantes say look to ecstasy, to creativity, to beauty, to joy, to theater. Lose control. The timing is divine for the return of Dionysus and his wild celebrants. As our audience, you are sitting in one of their temples: a theater.

Now they are coming for you.

— Judyie Al-Bilali
Director

UMassAmherst

College of Humanities & Fine Arts
Theater

The Bacchae of Euripides: A Communion Rite by Wole Soyinka

Director	Judyie Al-Bilali
Dramaturg	Megan Lewis
Scenic Designer	Maryam Hemayati
Costume Designer	Emma Hollows
Lighting Designer	Sydney Becker
Sound Designer	Amy Altadonna
Voice and Speech Coach	Risher Reddick
Choreographer	Moriah Leigh
Intimacy Choreographer	Toby Vera Bercovici
Makeup Designer	Melissa Smith
Stage Manager	Tom Kelleher
Assistant Director	Gabriel Harrell
Assistant Dramaturg	Eliza McCann
Assistant Costume Designers	Samantha Brzozowski Rebecca Cottrell
Assistant Sound Designer	Max Winalski
Assistant Stage Managers	Melissa Smith Anna Zaczek
Production Manager	Julie Fife
Technical Director	Michael Cottom
Costume Shop Manager	Kristin Jensen
Lighting Supervisor	Michael Dubin
Sound Supervisor	Amy Altadonna
Scenic Design Advisor	Anya Klepikov
Costume Design Advisor	Ciera Wells
Lighting Design Advisor	Penny Remsen
Stage Management Advisor	Julie Fife

Special thanks to: To my dear friend, esteemed colleague, dedicated community builder and medicine woman, Dr. Priscilla Page

In loving memory of my lifelong friend, distinguished UMass alum, brilliant activist and pioneering educator Baba Obalase Ifagbemi Stanley Kinard – 'Keep the Faith'.

CAST

Dionysos	Steve Folmar
Pentheus	Jasper Wolf
Kadmos	Lucas La Guardia
Tiresias	Cath Newell
Agave	Hero Hendrick-Baker
Slave Leader	Darius Taylor
Old Slave	Hala Lord
Officer	Ryan Dunn
First Bacchante	Faolain Bobersky
Herdsmen	Luke Bosco
	Alison Butts
	Parker Fischer
Guards	Imran Mohamad
	Ben Nadelstein
	Matthew Suchecki
Slave Chorus	Chelsea Cannon
	Teara Cowan
	Nicholas Dix
	Simran Johar
	Urgyen Joshi
	Helen Rahman
Bacchae	Stephanie Einstein
	Ruby Green
	Jasmine Inim
	Fleur Kuhta
	Isabelle Marseille
	Annabel Mott

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT	
Associate Production Manager	Matthew Morin
Production Assistant	Samantha D'Orazio
SCENIC DEPARTMENT	
Scenic Construction Director	Brandon Hall
Scenic Artisan	Al Sanchez
Scene Shop Teaching Assistants	Maryam Hemayati, Xinyuan Li, Calypso Michelet
Scenic Artist	Calypso Michelet
Scene Shop Technicians	Zander Belew, Samantha Brzozowski, Rejjia Camphor, Jacqui Dupré, Thomas Dvorak, Delia Fleming, Louie Huang, Taylor Lennon, Pedro Saravia-Castillo, Ryan Taylor, Kayla Van Aken, Jasper Wolf, Sena Yactem, Jess Zeliger, Jia-Jia Zheng