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 adaption 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 vibrantly diverse 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
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

CAST

**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 Cotrell

**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 Wills

**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 almum, brilliant activist and pioneering educator Baba Obalase Ifagbemi Stanley Kinard – 'Keep the Faith'.

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