

THE GEORGIA COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE
PROUDLY PRESENTS:

Zoom [Out]

An Experiment in Production

Premiering

Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

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Zoom [Out]

An Experiment in Production

Written and Directed by
Iona Sun Holder

Lighting Designer
Fran Smith

Sound Designer
Natalie Cook

Stage Manager
David Connel

Production Manager
Bea Czogalla

Costume Designer
Eric Griffis

Technical Director
Jesse Wade

Scenic Designer
Isaac Ramsey

Documentary
Mason Baxter

Costume Shop Manager
Cathleen O'Neal

Office Manager
Keeli Ewing

Logistics, Poster/Web Design
Jimmy Holder

Film Production Team
Jeremy Colwell

Technical Production Staff
Keith Bergeron
Clay Garland

Harlee Pope
Mallory Sage

Artistic Director
Dr. Karen Berman

CAST

BRAD
DESTINY
BRODY
ROBYN
WHIT
LOVE
PIPER
MECHELE
RANDY
AUGUST
CASSIE

Mason Baxter
Adrienne Gardner
David Williams
Cole Hanlin
Cole Whitney
Priya Hemphill
Claire Hemenway
Frankie Glick
Spencer Roberts
Ansara "Izzy" Lee
Bella Eclavea

Giving Voice:

A Virtual Season

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Come celebrate our theme "Giving Voice: A Virtual Season" to keep our actors and audiences safe during Covid-19 and exploring gender, voter and civil rights, poverty, and the Black Lives Matter movement. Imagine GC Theatre as the national hub of culture and a just society serving our local community with free theatre for youth, raising literacy, and developing leaders with your support. Our students are interning as actors, film crew members, educators, production managers, and designers with the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta and in New York and beyond.

We begin our season with "Zoom [Out]: An Experiment in Production," our first ever virtual mainstage production written and directed by Iona Sun Holder. This exciting new world we are exploring in taped production depended on the expertise of Russell Building Manager Keith Bergeron and Russell Sound Engineer Clay Garland. We thank all of these folks for their inventive spirit.

In their top 25 listing, ONSTAGE Blog named us the 20th best B.A. Theatre program in the United States for 2018-19. You will find our faculty working at professional jobs around the country and our graduates pursuing graduate studies and New York acting careers. Our quality liberal arts program promotes critical and creative thinking. The Dance Minor Program is headed by Director of Dance Amelia Pelton and Instructor Natalie King. Theatre professors Amy Pinney, Eric Griffis, Beate Czogalla, Valeka Holt, and Isaac Ramsey join Technical Director Jesse Wade, Costume Shop Manager Cathleen O'Neal and Office Manager Keeli Ewing to round out our amazing program. Cognate faculty in music offer additional fields of study. Guest Artist Caleen Sinnette Jennings joins our season.

Guest artist residencies in partnership with disciplines across campus and the 24-Hour Plays and The Arts and Letters Play enhance our season.

Contact me about ways that we can partner to support our students. I look forward to meeting you before and after the show!

Dr. Karen Berman
Professor
Chair and Artistic Director of Theatre Program

FROM THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Perhaps this project began with the birth of my consciousness...otherwise, it was July of this year. I began by finding space in my mind to explore everything happening around the world today without judgment, only observation. I wanted to expose the highest common factor amongst humans that I could conjure and then find a way to reflect that commonality. I let the story tell itself as I worked as a scribe to capture a spectrum of existence from multiple perspectives (specific to college students in 2020). I embraced the concept of experimentation recognizing the freedom this afforded all of us by allowing for failure in an academic setting via implementation of the scientific method. The underpinning of "An Experiment in Production" allowed us to approach our methods with a new perspective, of which we took turns reminding each other and ourselves. We needed a way to tell stories together, but we also needed to plan to be apart. We needed to rehearse but in a new way that considered the health threats we are all facing. I needed a new method of directing that would allow distance and inspire new layers of understanding between the actor and the character. Everything became clear and I set out to build a team of dreamers- people who would be willing to explore the darkness with me and able to let go of their preconceived notions about making theatre. Due to Covid- and the resulting global pandemic- everyone can relate to the confusion and the need to learn a new way of making progress- the world looked a little upside down. In the course of learning a lot of new things, we have come to the conclusion that there is ALWAYS another way and if we can remind ourselves to take DEEP BREATHS, we can make FORWARD MOTION. We are ALL a part of something bigger- a story that is constantly evolving.

The Experiment

Observation: Theatre cultivates compassion and plants seeds of empathy with audiences that engage with powerful work.

1. Question: Would it be possible to transfer curated skills from theatre towards film by embracing the strengths of both? **2. Research:** Our lives are filled with learning and we are constantly evolving as we learn more. **3. Hypothesis:** Can we use the emoting of actors from a theatrical world through film in an effort to cultivate compassion and plant seeds of empathy to even broader audiences? **4. Test:** Under the premise of performing a play consisting of eleven monologues- cast, direct and film the performances of 11 actors. Take apart the stories into words, phrases and sentences so that they may be put back together in a display of our intersectional ties. **5. Analyze Results:** Utilizing a flexible mindset and a consistent goal, we collaborated to join forces from multiple, opposing perspectives to tell a story...together. **6. Draw Conclusion:** We are ALL a part of something bigger and many times we do not even realize the ripple effect of our actions, but if we can take comfort in "not knowing" all of the answers, we can reach farther than we ever imagined. **7. Communicate Results:** The resulting film is WE.

I'm incredibly grateful to Dr. Karen Berman, for her trust and faith in me- in all of US- as well as her conscious care, and consistent support. The entire faculty and staff of GC Theatre, served to support the students and alumni that came together to create this film and for that, I'm also incredibly grateful. The actors who performed, as well as every person I have EVER interacted with, helped to tell this story- so thank YOU for being precisely you. Special shout out to our production team and my family- some of which is overlapping and all of whom are intertwined- you're ALL remarkable humans that I'm honored to know. My first partnership was-IS-always with my husband, Jimmy- the absolute love of my life. I'm more grateful for him with each new breath I'm gifted.

Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu

Enjoy-

Iona Sun Holder

MEET THE ARTISTS

Zoom [Out]

An Experiment in Production

Cast

Mason Baxter (Mass Communications 2021, Brad and Documentary Maker) I'd like to give a huge thank you to Iona Holder for giving me the chance to be in this experiment in theater. She has been an amazing director, and an even better friend. I've had a much-needed introspective journey throughout the process of getting this show to where it is. Big thanks to Harlee Pope and Jeremy Colwell for their continuous love and support for the cast and project throughout. I hope the audience enjoys this show as much as I enjoyed working on it.

Bella Eclavea (Theatre 2024, Cassie) Past shows include: "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" (Marcy and music director); "The Little Mermaid" (Flounder and music director); "Shrek" (Baby Bear). Bella is incredibly grateful for this opportunity and would like to thank Iona, the talented cast and production crew, and her loving family!

Adrienne Gardner (Mass Communications Major & Theatre Minor 2021, Destiny). Past shows include: "Barbeque" (Adlean) and was a Irene Ryan Finalist performer at KCACTF IV in 2019. Adrienne wants to thank everyone who worked hard on the production to make it happen. She wants to thank her family, her friends for life, and others who've helped her see the light in herself.

Frankie Glick (Theatre 2022, Mechele) Other productions include: "Ballet Russes" (Makeup Designer/Artist), "Barbecue" (Marie). I want to thank my director Iona for an amazing new experience that I will cherish forever.

Cole Hanlin (Theatre 2022, Robyn). Cole is incredibly thankful for Iona, Harley, and Jeremy for creating an amazing environment to work in and perform! Special thanks to Iona for creating such a unique experience for us, as actors and individuals, and for everyone who will see this.

Claire Hemenway (Theatre 2021, Piper) Past shows include: "Heathers" (New Wave Girl/Dance Captain); "Ballet Russes" (Karsavina, Irene Ryan Nomination); "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Helena, Irene Ryan Nominee). Claire wants to thank everyone involved in this production for making it an amazing experience!

Priya Eileen Hemphill (Theatre 2023, Love) Her past shows include: "Ballet Russes" (Lydia), "Wine in the Wilderness" (Cynthia), "Heathers" (Assistant Stage Manager), and "Shooting Star" (Dresser). Priya wants to thank this amazing cast, crew, her friends, and family!

Ansara "Izzy" Lee (Theatre 2022, August) Past shows include: "Detroit '67" (Sylvester); "Barbecue" (Black James T). Izzy wants to thank his directors, mentors, and fellow actors.

Cast *(continued)*

Spencer Roberts (Theatre 2024, Randy) This is Spencer's first show at Georgia College and he would like to thank this amazing cast, his friends, family, and Iona!

Cole Whitney (Theatre 2024, Whit) Past shows include “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime” (Christopher Boone); “The Crucible” (Reverend Hale). Cole wants to thank all of the hardworking people who worked on this show. Big thanks to Iona for a chance and Love to my family.

David Williams (Economics 2021, Brody). Past shows include: “Aesop's Fables Redux,” “Cabaret,” and “The Marriage Counselor.” David would like to thank the cast, crew, and especially Iona for an experiment in humility, self-reflection, and growth.

Production Team

Keith Bergeron (Georgia College Technical Theatre 2014, Technical Production Manager) is delighted to collaborate with the Georgia College Department of Theatre and Dance for another production. He'd like to thank his gorgeous wife and three beautiful girls for their continual support throughout this journey we call life. Challenge yourself to be the better version of yourself. If you're not failing, then you're not learning.

Karen Berman (Chair and Artistic Director) has been the department chair since 2008. She has directed over 100 shows at locations from the Smithsonian to off-Broadway. In addition to her upcoming GC production of “Giving Voice,” her most recent productions at GC are “Ballet Russes” and “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” She is past president of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and a dean emerita of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre. She is co-founder and artistic director of Washington Women in Theatre.

Jeremy Colwell (Theatre 2018, Production Manager) Past film work includes “Ant-man and the Wasp” and “Avengers Endgame.” Jeremy wants to thank this amazing cast, production team, and Iona Holder!

David Connel (Theatre 2022, Stage Manager) would like to thank everyone on the “Zoom [Out]” team and their friends for their love and encouragement during this production. They would also like to thank everyone who has been wearing a mask and doing their part to fight this virus.

Natalie Cook (Theatre 2023, Sound Designer) Past shows include: “Shipwrecked” (Assistant Stage Manager), and “Shooting Star” (Stage Manager). She wants to thank her family, friends, and the supportive production team.

Beate Czogalla (Production Manager, Professor of Scenography) is delighted to have been a part of the theatre program at Georgia College as the Professor in Theatre Design since the Fall of 2000. She has a B.A. and M.A. degree in Theatre from Giessen University (Germany) and an MFA degree in Scenography and Lighting Design from Virginia Tech. Ms. Czogalla has designed internationally with credits at theatres in the United States, Canada, and Europe.

Production Team *(continued)*

Clay Garland (Theatre 2017, Production Staff) Past Shows include: "Heathers the Musical" (GCSU, Sound Designer), "Frozen the Musical" (Georgia Military College, Lighting Designer), "James and the Giant Peach" (Alfred and Adele Academy, A2). Clay would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support.

Eric Griffis (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be a part of this exciting experiment in theatre. Recent designs include "Warplay," "Christmas with the Crawfords," "I Am My Own Wife," and "Porcelain" for Out Front Theatre Company in Atlanta, "The Marriage Counselor" and "The Last Five Years" for Birdhouse Theatre, and "Heathers," "Crowns," and "Cabaret" for Georgia College. He has also spent many summers at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival. Visit ericgriffis.com to see more of his work.

Iona Sun Holder (Writer, Director), as a playwright, has been recognized by Acting Out INK Fest, Edmonds Driftwood Festival, and the Neil LaBute New Theatre Festival. Acting credits include Actor's Express, University of Georgia, Georgia College, Augusta Players, Milledgeville Players and Orlando Fringe Festival. Directing credits include "Stick Fly," "Death of a Salesman," "The Last Five Years," "Proposals," "Steel Magnolias," "Leveling Up," "The Marriage Counselor" and numerous new plays through the Arts & Letters Drama Prize at Georgia College & State University. She has served as Literary Adjudicator for ME Film Festival and the Arts & Letters Drama Prize. Iona served as an instructor of Scriptwriting, Theatre Appreciation, and English for fourteen years at Georgia College & State University. Iona and Jimmy are owners of Blackbird Coffee and Birdhouse Theatre. This is her first film. Email: contact@ionasun.com

Jimmy Holder (Logistics, Poster/Web Design) is happy to be a part of this experiment. His plays have been recognized by Heartland Theatre Festival, Centre Stage New Play Festival, Ohio State University New Play Contest, Labute New Theatre Festival, Ten for Tenn Play Competition, Little Theatre of Alexandria National Playwriting Competition, Cone Man Running Productions, and The Landing Theatre Company New American Voices. His acting credits include Roundabout Theatre, Syracuse Stage, Virginia Stage Company, The Producer's Club, Woodruff Arts Center and Orlando Fringe Festival. He served as an instructor of Scriptwriting, Theatre History, and English for eight years at Georgia College & State University. He is the Music Chair for Deep Roots Festival, an Executive Board member of the ME Film Fest, and a member of the Dramatist Guild of America. Jimmy and Iona are owners of Blackbird Coffee and Birdhouse Theatre.

Cathleen O'Neal (Costume Supervisor) has worked for Georgia College's Department of Theatre and Dance as Costume Supervisor since Fall of 2017. She has enjoyed designing costumes and hair and makeup for various productions while here at GC. She graduated from The University of Alabama in May of 2014 with an MFA in Costume Design and Production. She also enjoys freelance costume designing in the Atlanta area.

Harlee Pope (Theatre 2018, Videographer, Editor, Production Manager) is elated to be back working at her alma mater to help transform the program to a virtual season. Since graduation, she has worked on film projects for Netflix, HBO, CBS, Starz, NBC, and Marvel. Harlee would like to thank everyone involved with this experiment for stepping out of their comfort zones and constantly daring to be different.

Production Team *(continued)*

Isaac Ramsey (Scenic Designer) is the Scenic Design Faculty at Georgia College. GC Productions include: "Crowns," "A Doll's House Part 2," "American Idiot," "Cabaret," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." NYC: "Psych" (Cake Productions, NYC); "The Ring Cycle Pt 1" (Performance Lab 115). Regional: "Head Over Heels" (Actor's Express) "The Threepenny Opera," "Macbeth," "The Arabian Nights," "The Skin of Our Teeth" (Connecticut Repertory Theatre); "The Taming of the Shrew" (New Players Company, Ridgewood, NJ). Educational: "Street Scene," "The Medium," "Savitri," "The Old Maid and the Thief," "Impresario" (Miami University Opera). "God of Carnage" (Mercer). Education: MFA, The University of Connecticut. Design portfolio: IG:RAM5EY

Mallory Sage (Mass Communications 2017, Editor) is thrilled to be the editor on this project. Over the last few years, Mallory's endeavors have mostly been in theatre with Birdhouse Theatre at Blackbird Coffee, but this project marks a return to film. As a graduate of the Georgia College Mass Communication department, Mallory spent her time as an undergraduate focusing on production logistics and film editing.

Fran Smith (Theatre 2021, Lighting Designer) is excited to be working on such a unique production and trying out a new form of her art. She sends all her love to those she has been working with, but she is especially grateful for her Mom, who has been a huge comfort and support during the pandemic.

Jesse Wade (Technical Director) This is Jesse's fourth year as Technical Director at Georgia College. In that time, he has done such shows as "Cabaret," "Crowns," and "A Midsummer Night's Dream." He has served as the Technical Director for The Huron Playhouse and as the Master Carpenter for Rocky Mountain Repertory Theatre.

A Very Special Thank You To:

**Walter Reynolds, Richard Areingdale, Birdhouse Theatre
ME Film Festival, Jacob Johnson, Daniel Jones, Thomas O'Neal**

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FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

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Special thanks to the following individuals and institutions who provided generous support to this production:

Dr. Steve Dorman, President; Dr. Costas Spirou, Provost;
Dean Eric Tenbus, College of Arts and Sciences; Associate Dean Carrie Cook

**We are especially grateful to the President, Provost and Dean
for the film equipment that made this production possible.**

Bravo!

We are proud to again thank our patrons who generously donated since Oct. 1, 2019, to our exclusive dance organization we call Bravo! Bravo! members have the satisfaction of knowing their gift helps provide top-level instruction and support for dance at Georgia College and in our community. We welcome our Bravo! members to renew for 2019-2020 and anyone in the community who wishes to make a contribution and become a Bravo! member. Call Keeli Ewing at 478-445-8290 for more information. Thank you, thank you, Bravo! patrons.

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includes 4 Nutcracker tickets

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includes 2 Nutcracker tickets



Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Dobilas for sponsoring our guest artist Chad Jones.



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Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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