



WAYNE STATE
College of Fine, Performing
and Communication Arts

Maggie Allesee Department of
Theatre and Dance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 7, 2023

The future is now — Theatre and Dance at Wayne State announces first full season in new Hilberry Gateway venue

DETROIT—Theatre and Dance at Wayne is thrilled to announce its debut season in our new state-of-the-art performance venue, the Hilberry Gateway. There's something for everyone in this season's lineup. From classic dramas to modern comedies and unforgettable dance concerts, our 2023-2024 season will present a diverse array of productions that are sure to captivate and inspire audiences of all ages.

Our season opens in September 2023 with “Silent Sky,” a beautiful tale about a women astronomer paving her own way in a male dominated field. The cult-classic rock ‘n’ roll musical “The Rocky Horror Show,” opens in October at the Hilberry Gateway on the 500-seat proscenium theatre, the STAGE. Quickly following is “The Wolves,” a 2017 Pulitzer Prize finalist play about competitive soccer. Agatha Christie’s iconic whodunit “Murder on the Orient Express” heats up the cold in February. In March, the comedic drama “Chicken and Biscuits” promises a chaotic and entertaining story of a funeral at a Black church. And then “Amélie” transports us to Paris with a romantic score and story of an eccentric Frech woman. In December 2023 and April 2024, Theatre and Dance at Wayne’s dancers are excited to bring you two dance productions presenting extraordinary visuals, sounds, and movement in the *December Dance Concert* and 95th Annual *Spring Dance Concert*. The Dance faculty are excited to welcome our guest artists for Fall 2023: Crystal Frazier, Celia Benvenuti, and Joshua Peugh (in collaboration with Eisenhower Dance Detroit).

Allesee Guest Artist Crystal Frazier will join us for a residency September 2023. Guest Artist Celia Benvenuti will join the department for the Fall semester, creating a repertory with weekly rehearsals. Lastly, the Dance program will be partnering with Eisenhower Dance Detroit and Guest Artist Joshua Peugh, who will create a new work with WSU students and the Eisenhower company in a residency November 2023. This piece will be performed in our December Dance Concert and students will be invited to perform with the company for Eisenhower's home season May 2024.

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Phone: (313) 577-3508 | www.theatreanddance.wayne.edu



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About the Shows:

***Silent Sky* – by Lauren Gunderson**

As she fights against the limitations placed on her by society and the male-dominated scientific establishment, Henrietta and a team of female “computers” make groundbreaking discoveries about the fluctuating brightness of stars, enabling fellow scientists to map the Milky Way and beyond. Playwright, Lauren Gunderson celebrates the determination, passion, and sacrifice of the women who redefined our understanding of the cosmos.

***The Rocky Horror Show* – by Richard O’Brien**

In this cult classic, Brad and Janet, find themselves stranded on a dark and stormy night seeking shelter in a mysterious old castle. In his signature creepy rock and roll style, Dr. Frank-N-Furter and his house of wild and creepy friends unveil their latest creation: the perfect specimen, Rocky.

***The Wolves* – by Sara DeLappe**

Strikingly authentic dialogue captures the bravado and empathy found in players of “The Wolves”, a high school girls soccer team. A 2017 Pulitzer Prize finalist, “The Wolves” delves into the lives of student athletes navigating their way through big questions and tiny battles, also known as gameday.

December Dance Concert

Be inspired by the creative talent, agility, and grace of our students as they present contemporary dance pieces in a variety of styles. The December Dance Concert features distinguished guest artists', faculty and student works developed throughout the semester. A special closing to the year, this marks the first December Dance Concert in our new performance venue, the Hilberry Gateway.

***Agatha Christie’s Murder on the Orient Express* – by Ken Ludwig**

A snowdrift stops the luxurious Orient Express in its tracks at midnight. By dawn, an American tycoon is found murdered in his compartment, stabbed a dozen times with his door locked from the inside. The passengers of the train are now isolated with a killer among them, leaving detective Hercule Poirot to identify the murderer and prevent another attack from taking place. Can you solve this Agatha Christie whodunit before the rest of the guests on the Orient Express?

***Chicken & Biscuits* – Douglas Lyons**

The Jenkins family is coming together to celebrate the life of their father, but their hopes for a peaceful reunion are dashed when a shocking family secret reveals itself at the funeral. As rivaling sisters Baneatta and Beverly navigate the challenges and tensions that arise during the

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funeral, they must deal with the shocking revelation, which could either bring them closer or tear them apart. “Chicken & Biscuits” by Douglas Lyons explores themes of love, forgiveness, and healing through the lens of a Black family’s comedic and emotionally complex dynamics.

Amélie – Music by Daniel Messé, Lyrics by Daniel Messé & Nathan Tysen, Book by Craig Lucas

After surviving a tragic and isolated childhood, an imaginative young Parisian named Amelie finds joy in anonymously doing good deeds for those around her. When a chance at love ends up hanging in the balance, will Amelia risk everything and speak with her heart? Colorful characters and a romantic score create a world of fantastical fun that inspires audiences to find happiness in their everyday lives.

95th Annual Spring Dance Concert

Witness the wealth of talent and creativity of our students and faculty in this yearend culmination of Dance at Wayne State. Energetic and thought-provoking works developed alongside guest artists reflect the movement of today. The 95th Annual Spring Dance Concert will showcase various dance techniques developed from around the world.

Undergraduate Performance Companies

Undergraduate performance companies will also present new and exciting work throughout the year including Company One’s guest artist repertory premiere during Noel Night – the annual holiday celebration in Detroit’s Cultural Center.

Winter semester productions include performances by: **Company Fresh** (1st year theatre and dance majors write and perform new devised work), **Dance Workshop** (3rd and 4th year dance majors present new work with focus on technology and digital literacy), **To Sangana** (Contemporary African dance touring ensemble), **Freedom Players** (Social Justice Theatre touring ensemble), **Motor City Cabaret** (Musical Theatre showcase, touring), **B.F.A. Dance Capstone** (Graduating dance majors), and **The Underground** (Theatre majors of various concentrations collaborate to produce shows independent of faculty).

Pricing

For more information about tickets and pricing, visit our website at <https://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/buy-tickets>. Single tickets will go on sale July 1, 2023.

Single Tickets	Price
Adults	\$25*
Seniors/WSU Alumni & Employees	\$20*

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Students	\$15
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*\$30 Adult ticket, \$25 Seniors/WSU Alumni/Employee for "The Rocky Horror Show"

Season tickets offerings have changed for the 23-24 season. Season ticket holders can choose the traditional 6-production theatre season (plays and musicals) or pick the six theatre **and** dance productions (December Dance Concert, Spring Dance Concert) that you don't want to miss.

Season Tickets	Price
Adult	\$120
Seniors/WSU Alumni & Employees	\$99
Students	\$60
Season tickets renewals on sale beginning May 5, 2023	

Schedule: Please visit <https://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/season/2023-2024> for more information. Specific dates for the undergraduate performance companies will be announced later in the academic year.

Opening Date	Closing Date	Feature
Friday, September 29, 2023	Sunday, October 15, 2022	<i>Silent Sky</i>
Friday, October 27, 2023	Sunday, November 12, 2022	<i>The Rocky Horror Show</i>
Friday, November 17, 2023	Sunday, December 10, 2023	<i>The Wolves</i>
Friday, December 8, 2022	Sunday, December 10, 2022	<i>December Dance Concert</i>
Friday, February 2, 2024	Sunday, February 11, 2023	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
Friday, March 22, 2024	Saturday, March 30, 2024	<i>Chicken & Biscuits</i>
Friday, April 5, 2024	Saturday, April 20, 20234	<i>Amélie</i>
Friday, April 19, 2023	Sunday, April 21, 2023	<i>Spring Dance Concert</i>

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About Theatre and Dance at Wayne

Theatre and Dance at Wayne is the producing entity of the Maggie Allesee Department of Theatre and Dance, a department within the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts at Wayne State University. The department offers undergraduate and graduate programs in theatre and dance, including a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre with an emphasis in either Performance, Design and Technology, or Stage Management; Bachelor

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of Science in Dance; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance; Master of Fine Arts in Set Design, Costume Design, Lighting Design, Stage Management, and Theatre Management; Master of Arts in Teaching Artistry; and a Master of Arts in Arts Administration. Minors are available in Africana Theatre and Dance; Theatre Design and Technology, Theatre, Theatre Management, Dance, Community and Studio Dance. Additional information on academic programs can be found at <http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/>

About Wayne State University

Wayne State University is one of the nation's preeminent public research universities in an urban setting. Through its multidisciplinary approach to research and education, and its ongoing collaboration with government, industry and other institutions, the university seeks to enhance economic growth and improve the quality of life in the city of Detroit, state of Michigan and throughout the world. For more information about research at Wayne State University, visit <http://research.wayne.edu/>

Contact Info

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