

# Virtual Show Program

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre  
Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts

 SAGINAW VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

# THE MISER BY MOLIÈRE



ADAPTED & DIRECTED BY  
DAVE RZESZUTEK

Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre

PRESENTS

# The Miser

Written by Molière

Adapted by Dave Rzeszutek

**Stage Manager**

Emma Koch

**Director**

Dave Rzeszutek

**House Manager**

Drea Brown\*

**Scenic Designer**

Jerry Dennis

**Sound Designer**

Alex Dubowski\*

**Lighting Designer**

Eric Durette\*

**Costume Designer**

Courtney A. Kelly

**Hair & Make-Up Designer**

Becca Dubs

**Logo Designer**

Paige Tuckerman\*

**Props Designers**

Peggy Mead-Finizio &  
Rem Ferguson

**Production Manager**

Peggy Mead-Finizio

**Publicity Managers**

Courtney A. Kelly &  
Lela Murray

\*Denotes an SVSU Theatre Scholarship Recipient

Saginaw Valley State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. It encourages diversity and inclusion and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all of its programs and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of persons connected with the University.

Saginaw Valley State University is committed to providing work and learning opportunities without regard to age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, height, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, weight, or on any other basis protected by state, federal, or other applicable law, and to achieving its objectives in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations that prohibit discrimination.

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# Cast

<b>Harpagon</b>	Dana Samalik*
<b>Élise</b>	Isabel Losa*
<b>Valère</b>	George Hageage IV
<b>Marianne</b>	Emma-Gene Dorsey*
<b>Cléante</b>	Trent Bergman
<b>La Flèche</b>	Scout McCulloch*
<b>Anselme</b>	Billy Dorsey
<b>Master Jacques</b>	CeCe Goulette
<b>Frosine</b>	Lila Duvendack*
<b>Master Simon</b>	Isaac Pease
<b>Brindavoine</b>	Elliott Bell
<b>La Merluche</b>	Hayley Huggett
<b>Mistress Claude</b>	Skylar Summey
<b>The Sheriff</b>	Kalinah Dunn

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# Production Team

<b>Director</b>	Dave Rzeszutek
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	Jerry Dennis
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Eric Durette*
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Alex Dubowski*
<b>Props Designers</b>	Peggy Mead-Finizio Rem Ferguson
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Courtney A. Kelly
<b>Makeup &amp; Hair Designer</b>	Becca Dubs
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Emma Koch
<b>House Manager</b>	Drea Brown*
<b>Production Manager</b>	Peggy Mead-Finizio

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## Production Staff

<b>Scene Shop Supervisor</b>	Jerry Dennis
<b>Scene Shop Assistant</b>	Alex Dubowski*
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Lela Murray
<b>Assistant Production Manager</b>	Lela Murray
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Tyler Obermiller
<b>Assistant Sound Designer</b>	Paige Tuckerman*
<b>Assistant Hair &amp; Makeup Designer</b>	Kylie Sizemore
<b>Lead Electrician</b>	Peggy Mead-Finizio
<b>Dept. of Theatre Audio Manager</b>	Eric Durette*
<b>Logo Designer</b>	Paige Tuckerman*
<b>Publicity Managers</b>	Courtney A. Kelly
	Lela Murray
<b>Administrative Secretary</b>	Kelly Helmreich
<b>Dept. of Theatre Office Worker</b>	Paige Tuckerman*
<b>Dept. of Theatre Publicity Coordinator</b>	Dave Rzeszutek
<b>Mentor to Student Designers and Crew</b>	Peggy Mead-Finizio
<b>Mentor to Student Theatre Management</b>	Tommy Wedge

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## Production Crew

<b>Electricians</b>	Veronica Vozniak
	Lela Murray
	Alex Dubowski*
	Tyler Obermiller
	Emma Koch
<b>Live Mix</b>	Alex Dubowski*
<b>Sound Board Operator</b>	Paige Tuckerman*
<b>Light Board Operator</b>	Rem Ferguson
<b>Costume Crew</b>	Lily Oddo*
<b>Hair &amp; Makeup Crew</b>	Blythe Cheney
<b>Stagehand</b>	Alex Fromm
<b>Publicity Team</b>	Lydia Bolzman
	Isabel Losa
<b>Publicity Photographer</b>	Marcia Morris

# A Note from the Director

Welcome to our production of *The Miser*, a classic play by Molière that explores the themes of greed, love, and the folly of human nature. I am thrilled to share our unique approach to the production: infusing the play with the vibrant and expressive style of Commedia dell'arte.

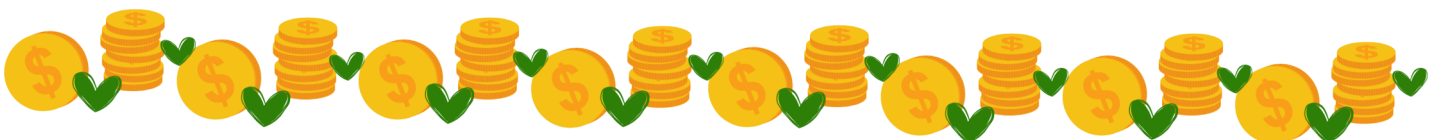
Commedia dell'arte is a theatrical form characterized by its colorful characters and exaggerated physicality. By incorporating this style, we aim to amplify Molière's humor and satirical edge, bringing new life to his characters and their interactions. The essence of Commedia—its dynamic masks, playful improvisation, and the use of stock characters—enriches the storytelling, inviting you to experience the comedy in a fresh and engaging way.

In this production, Harpagon, the miserly protagonist, will embody the archetype of the greedy Pantalone, while our other characters will draw upon familiar Commedia types, showcasing the juxtaposition between Harpagon's obsession with money and the free-spiritedness of those around him. This style not only pays homage to Molière's roots but also highlights the universality of his themes. Greed is as relevant today as it was in the 17th century, and through the lens of Commedia, we aim to explore the absurdity of our own desires and follies.

I invite you to immerse yourselves in this zany world where life's contradictions unfold in the most entertaining ways.

Enjoy the show!

Dave Rzeszutek



# Production Spotlights

## Harpagon:



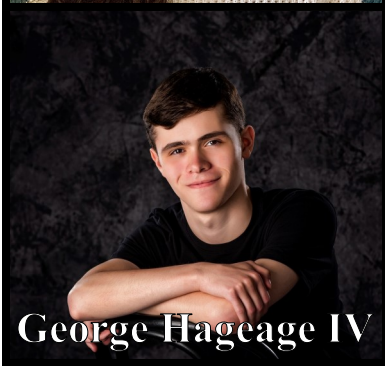
Dana Samalik is a second-year Communications and Theatre Education major. She is so excited to share the hilarious story of *The Miser* with an audience! Before this production, Dana performed in SVSU's *Tiny Beautiful Things* as Letter Writer #3, *Very Berry Dead* as J.J., *Urinetown* as Officer Barrel, The Faerie Queen in *Burning Bluebeard*, as well as Belinda in *Noises Off*. She has previously been a dramaturg for SVSU's production of *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds* as well as their production of *columbinus*. She has loved participating in the theatre program at SVSU and has been delighted to work with such a fantastic cast and crew. She would like to thank her friends for always being there for her and her family for their endless support throughout her theatrical career. Enjoy the show!

## Élise :



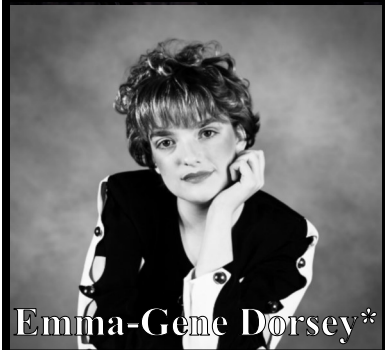
Isabel Losa is a third year Theater Major and Sociology Minor. She is very excited to act in the first production of the semester! Isabel has worked on 8 shows here at SVSU. She was a props helper for *Tiny Beautiful Things* and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*. She was an understudy for Ma in the production of *Very Berry Dead*, Soupy Sue in *Urinetown*, Henry Gilfoil in *Burning Bluebeard*, Selsdon Mowbray in *Noises Off*, Faith in *columbinus*, and of course Élise in *The Miser*. Isabel would love to thank her parents for supporting her love for acting.

## Valère:



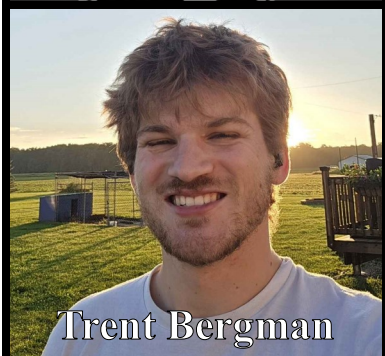
George Hageage IV, a third year Theatre major with a Musical Theatre minor, is taking the SVSU stage for the first time. A transfer from Alma College, George spent his first two years of college performing on their stage—his last performance at Alma being *Cabaret* as Clifford Bradshaw. Outside of college theatre, George performs frequently at Midland Center for the Arts, Creative 360, and Bay City Players. Most recently, he's played Wiesel in *Newsies* at Midland Center for the Arts, Cinderella's Prince and The Wolf in Sondheim's *Into the Woods* at Bay City Players, and Antipholus of Ephesus in Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* at Creative 360.

## Marianne:



Emma-Gene is so excited to be clowning around on stage again, this time with her husband, Billy! Emma-Gene is a Theater major/Musical Theater minor! Emma's last show at SVSU was *Noises Off*, playing Brooke Ashton. She was also in, her personal favorite, *Burning Bluebeard* playing Nellie Reed! Emma-Gene would like to thank her dad, Cameron, for being her theatrical inspiration, and also her best friend Abi and two more of her closest friends Chey and Abby (a different one) for always being there! She also would like to let her mom know that she won't be pulled up on stage for *this* show...probably!

## Cléante:



Trent Bergman is a fifth year studying English Education at Saginaw Valley. He has previously featured in *columbinus* earlier this year and is excited to tackle new acting challenges in *The Miser*. Trent has high hopes for this show and can't wait to hear some big laughs! He would like to thank his family and friends for all their support and the cast and crew for putting on a wonderful show.



### **La Flèche:**

Scout is a 4th-year Communication and Theatre major, thrilled to return to the stage as La Fleche in *The Miser*. Previously, she's been blessed to perform as Letter Writer #2 in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, Lockstock in *Urinetown*, Eddie Foy in *Burning Bluebeard*, and Dotty in *Noises Off*, among others. Scout is grateful to her family, boyfriend Joseph, and the cast and crew for their unwavering support—she couldn't do this without them. A special shoutout to one of her best friends Dana for shining brightly in this production and being a constant source of encouragement!



### **Anselme:**

Billy Dorsey is excited to play the roll of Anselme in the SVSU production of *The Miser*. He is especially excited to be joined onstage by his wife Emma who was truly a blessing from the Lord! He has enjoyed acting in such roles as the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*, Jack Kelly in *Newsies*, and Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. He is also very excited to give the Commedia Dell'arte style a try in this hilarious show of old. A special thanks goes out to his vocal coach Donna Parsons who gave him the confidence to try acting, and to his wife Emma, who he can't wait to see how the Lord will use them both as they venture out on life together!



### **Master Jacques:**

CeCe Goulette is a first-year environmental science major, with a minor in theatre. This is her first time on stage at Saginaw Valley—but hopefully not the last—and she's absolutely ecstatic and honored to be here. She would like to thank her family, friends, and her boyfriend for all of their love and support thus far. Enjoy the fruit of our labor!



### **Frosine:**

Lila is a third year double major in theatre and psychology. They are thrilled to be back on the stage for *The Miser* this season. Her prior involvement with SVSU Theatre department has consisted of assistant costume designing *Burning Bluebeard*, *Noises Off*, and *columbinus*, as well as acting in *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* as Nanny, *Very Berry Dead* as Riley, and *Urinetown* in the chorus. She loves this theatre program and would like to thank all those close to her who support her both in and outside of theatre.



### **Master Simon:**

Isaac is a 3rd year Theatre Major with a double minor in Creative Writing and Graphic Design. The Miser is the first show at SVSU that Isaac will be performing in as Master Simon although in the past he was one of the two prop designers for *Urinetown* a stage hand for *Noises Off* and the sound board operator for *Columbinus*. Isaac would like to thank his family for supporting him and the cast and crew for creating a fun rehearsal environment.



### **Brindavoine:**

Elliott Bell is a History major and Theatre minor at SVSU, and they are so excited for this to be their first onstage appearance at SVSU! They previously worked on *Noises Off!* as a stagehand and *columbinus* as co-dramaturg. They are so appreciative of the opportunity to work with this cast and crew, and cannot wait for people to see how hard everyone has been working on this production! They would like to thank their family and friends, as well as their boyfriend, for supporting them through this process.



### **La Merluche:**

Haley Huggett is starring in her first production here at SVSU! She is currently studying social work with a minor in theatre! She is very excited to be making an appearance in *The Miser* and cannot wait for everyone to see the final product of all of our hard work!



### **Mistress Claude:**

Skylar Summey is a third-year psychology major with music and theatre minors at Saginaw Valley State University, focusing on voice. *The Miser* is her first theatre production! She could previously be seen performing with SVSU's Concert Choir and Cardinal Singers ensembles. She has also sung at the Black Arts Festival and New Covenant Christian Center Church. Skylar is very thankful to her family, who has always supported her dreams, and *The Miser* production team for this wonderful opportunity! She looks forward to getting more involved in theatre next season!



### **The Sheriff:**

Kalinah is a second year Communication Major with minors in Theatre and Spanish. They are excited for this show and to make their first onstage appearance at SVSU. This year, Kalinah has been the head Properties designer for *Noises Off!* and a stagehand for *columbinus*. They would like to thank their family and friends for supporting them through and through, and they hope you enjoy the show!



### **House Manager:**

Drea is a fourth-year Theatre Major with a minor in Management. She is so excited to hold the position of House Manager for the first time! Previous roles at SVSU have included Stage Manager (*Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Very Berry Dead*, *Noises Off*), Sound Designer (*Top Girls*, *columbinus*), and Assistant Stage Manager (*Burning Bluebeard*). She has also held positions at Midland Center for the Arts as Stage Manager (*Next to Normal*) and Assistant Stage Manager (*Newsies*, *Footloose*). Drea is an Actor Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors, and was the Assistant Fight Director for *Newsies* (MCFTA) and *columbinus* (SVSU).





### **Director:**

Dave has taught at SVSU since 2009. He was the Saginaw coordinator of NYC's The Public Theater: Mobile Unit National - *Sweat* project. This community project involved many local partners exploring art through the lens of: identity, race, economy, and humanity. It culminated with a professional production by The Public Theater of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, *Sweat*, by Lynn Nottage, with Ms. Nottage in attendance. He is affiliated with the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival and the Michigan Educational Theatre Association. He studied Circus Techniques/ Movement in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Commedia Dell'Arte with Maestro Antonio Fava in Reggio Emilia, Italy. He earned his MFA from Ohio University's Professional Actor Training Program.

### **Assistant Director/Assistant Production Manager:**

Lela Murray is a third-year Exercise Science Pre-Athletic Training and Physical Therapy Major and is so excited to be assistant directing again! Lela is very passionate about theatre and excited to hold many roles in this season's productions. She was recently awarded a KCACTF Certificate of Merit for her work as the Assistant Director for *Noises Off!*, and was recently the Stage Manager for *columbinus*. Lela would like to thank her family for always helping her do her best and always believing in her with everything she does.

### **Stage Manager:**

Emma is a third year Theatre major with minors in Management and Sociology. This is her first time as Stage Manager and has had a wonderful experience working on this production! Emma is a jack of all trades within the theatre department and prior to this production, has been involved as the Assistant Stage Manager for *Noises Off*, Lead Electrician and Light Board Operator for *Burning Bluebeard*, and as an actor in *Urinetown: The Musical*. She would like to thank this amazing cast and crew that have worked so hard to make this show what it is.

### **Assistant Stage Manager:**

Tyler Obermiller is in his sophomore year studying Theater at SVSU. He is very excited to be Assistant Stage Managing for his first time and hopes this experience will offer him with guidance and support to eventually make his stage manager debut. Tyler is very optimistic to be taking a step back from acting this year and discovering the management and design positions available in the department. Tyler would like to thank his family and friends for always supporting his theater career.

### **Hair & Make-Up Designer:**

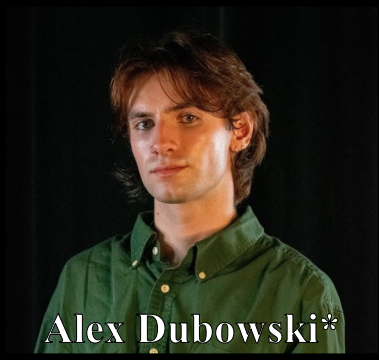
Rebecca is a two-time SVSU alum with a Master of Public Administration - University/ College Student Affairs Administrative Track and a Bachelor of Arts in English Education, with Minors in Theatre/Communications Education and Sociology. This will mark her eighteenth show here and the thirteenth show she has designed. She received Certificates of Merit from the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for her hair and make-up designs in *The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds* and *Very Berry Dead*. She is currently the Carmona College of Business Student Engagement Manager and is working on her MBA next!

### Lighting Designer:



Eric is a third year with a focus in Pre-Law. Eric joins our production of *The Miser* as our Light Designer and Audio Manager. Eric is thrilled that he finally gets his first opportunity to light design a production! In the past Eric has Sound Designed a majority of the SVSU Productions since Fall 2022, Eric has also had some experience acting in *Urinetown the Musical*, and *columbinus*. Eric would like to thank his family for attending and being understanding for his lack of communication while he learns how to be an RA and still be a part of the SVSU Theatre Department.

### Sound Designer:



Alex is a third-year theatre major with a minor in psychology and a focus on lighting design and technologies. This is Alex's first time doing sound design and mixing for a production. He has previously light designed *columbinus* and *Burning Bluebeard*, which earned a Certificate of Merit as well as Honorable Mention for Theatrical Excellence in Lighting Design at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. This is his second year serving as the Student Scene Shop Worker. Alex is incredibly excited to share this show!

### Props Designer/Production Manager:



Peggy is in her ninth year at Saginaw Valley State University. She is currently an Associate Professor of Theatre and is the Co-Props Designer with Rem Ferguson. She is an active theatre designer, choreographer, director, arts administrator, and serves as the Production Manager and mentor to student designers in the Department of Theatre. Her most recent work at SVSU was as director and choreographer for the April 2024 production of *columbinus*. She has also recently done lighting design for *Next to Normal* and *Newsies* at Midland Center for the Arts.

### Props Designer:



Rem Ferguson is a first year theatre major and is thrilled to be working on their first ever production here at SVSU. They are co-prop designing alongside Professor Peggy Mead-Finizio. Before coming to SVSU Rem worked on numerous shows as a stage manager, lighting designer/technician, and in the shop building sets. They are excited to be doing props for the first time and would like to thank Peggy for giving them the opportunity to help design props and their friends and family for their support.

### Costume Designer:



Courtney Anderson Kelly (she/hers) is delighted to be Costume Designing again at SVSU for *The Miser*! She received her MFA in Theatre (Costume Design and Technology) from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and her BA in Theatre, French, and English Education from Northern Michigan University. Over the past 15 years, she has worked professional Costume positions across the country in a variety of venues including Off-Broadway, regional theatres, universities, and high school drama programs. Recent credits include *Burning Bluebeard*, *Noises Off!* *columbinus* (SVSU) and co-designing *The Wizard of Oz* at the Midland Center for the Arts. [www.courtneyakelly.com](http://www.courtneyakelly.com)

**For updates on our upcoming season or information on how to get involved, check out our Social Media Pages!**

[Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) [Website](#) [TikTok](#)

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# Acknowledgements

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At Saginaw Valley State University, we recognize that we are located on the ancestral homelands of the Anishinaabe, Wyandot, and Sauk. We specifically acknowledge the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe and the land ceded in the Saginaw Treaty of 1819, on which we reside. We appreciate the importance of preserving and honoring the traditions of Indigenous People who are an integral part of our shared history. As we pledge to serve as responsible stewards of the land, we endeavor for this history to inform our teaching, scholarship, and our commitment to community.

## **Saginaw Valley State University Department of Theatre**

### **Full Time Faculty**

Peggy Mead-Finizio, MFA

David Rzeszutek, MFA

Tommy Wedge, MFA

### **Adjunct Faculty**

Courtney A. Kelly, MFA

### **Departments of RPW & Theatre**

Administrative Secretary Kelly J. Helmreich

### **Acknowledgements**

The Office of Dr. George Grant,  
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The Office of Dr. Marc Peretz,  
Dean College of Arts and Behavioral Sciences

The Office of University Communications

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# Special Thanks

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**SVSU Foundation** - For continued support in student success and new experiences

**The Dow Visiting Scholars and Artists Program** - For providing hands-on opportunities to SVSU theatre students

**Office of University Communications** - Michael Randolph, Marketing Specialist for Videography and Photography & Jeff Schrier, University Photographer

**SVSU ITS Department** - For technical support and resources

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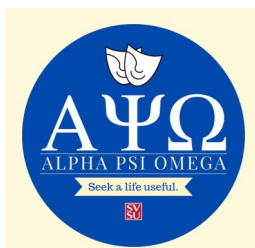
**Conner Wieland** - For electrics support

**Caleb Hopper** - For assistance and training with live mixing

**Dan Hope** - for his guidance

**Alpha Gamma Eta chapter of Alpha Psi Omega** - APO is a National Theatre Honors Society for participants in collegiate theatre with the aim of encouraging dramatic production at every step in a person's academic career

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**SV** SAGINAW VALLEY  
**SU** STATE UNIVERSITY.

## Stand Out.





# The Kennedy Center

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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.