

# LAUNCH THE PATP CLASS OF 2020!



Tonight you are experiencing several of our actors' final performance as UW students. After three years of intensive training, our third-year MFA actors are ready to launch their professional careers. Next quarter, they'll begin their showcase tour. Here's what they have to say about that:

"As a working actor, you are your own business. One of the greatest obstacles is 'getting in the room' to meet the people who will help that business thrive. Our professional launch is an opportunity for us to expand our network and strengthen our marketing and promotional tools. The professionals we meet during showcase will serve as valuable connections throughout our careers. This means that your gift will keep on giving for many years of art-making to come!

**We are raising \$7,500 this month to support our career launch.**  
Join us as we hit the pavement and learn what it is to live the life of the working actor."

Learn more and give by March 11th at:

<https://crowdfundtogether.uw.edu/PATP20Launch>



**W** SCHOOL OF DRAMA  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

## THE BEST OF EVERYTHING

Adapted by Julie Kramer  
From the book by Rona Jaffe

Directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton



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From the book by Rona Jaffe  
Directed by Valerie Curtis-Newton

February 6 - February 16, 2020  
Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse  
University of Washington

*The Best of Everything* runs 1 hours and 30 minutes  
No intermission.

If you must exit the theatre during the performance, we ask  
that you use the upper exits if you are able to, for your safety  
and the safety of our performers and crew.

CONTENT ADVISORY:  
This production contains adult themes and content.

Special Thanks:  
Bridget Connors, L. Zane Jones, Cathy Madden

## Major Donors

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who have made a financial contribution to the School of Drama in the past year. Your gifts make a genuine impact in the lives of our students, and in turn, within the greater theatre community. Full list of donors at [drama.uw.edu/about/donors](http://drama.uw.edu/about/donors)

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Maria Moiel  
Gregory Olsson  
Linda & Rudolf Risler  
Dirk Sanders  
Professor Deborah Trout  
Avon & George Wilson

Thank you to our media sponsors:



## Faculty & Staff

Lynn Thomas, *Interim Executive Director*

Geoff Korf, *Professor and Interim Associate Director*

### *Professors*

Tim Bond

Catherine Cole

Valerie Curtis-Newton

Odai Johnson

Thomas Lynch

### *Affiliate Professor*

Thomas Postlewait

### *Principal Lecturers*

Catherine Madden

Skip Mercier

### *Lecturers*

Geoffrey Alm

David Armstrong

Trista Baldwin

Elisabeth

Farwell-Moreland

Kira Franz-Knight

Elizabeth Heffron

Kelly Kitchens

Anita Montgomery

Jane Nichols

Myra Platt

Jane Richlovsky

Andrew D. Smith

Amy Thone

Julia Hayes Welch

Rob Witmer

### *Emeritus Faculty*

Sarah Bryant-Bertail

Robert Dahlstrom

Bill Forrester

Mark Jenkins

Judith Shahn

Aurora Valentinetti

Barry Witham

### *Associate Professors*

Jeffrey Fracé

Scott Magelssen

Deborah Trout

### *Senior Lecturers*

Kwame Braun

Bridget Connors

Scott Hafso

L. Zane Jones

### *Assistant Professor*

Stefka Mihaylova

MuTTT, *Sound and Stage Technician*

Holly Arsenault, *Director of Engagement*

Eloise Boyle, *Undergraduate Advisor*

Malcolm Brown, *Program Coordinator*

Sue Bruns, *Graduate Program Advisor*

Andrea Bush, *Property Master*

Alex Danilchik, *Scene Shop Manager & Interim*

*Production Manager*

Jennifer Law, *Scenic Artist*

Ian Lootens, *Stage Technician*

Valerie Mayse, *Costume Specialist*

Jay McAleer, *Master Electrician*

Maritza Ogarro, *Administrative Assistant*

Caroline Rensel, *Constituent Relations Officer*

Gretchen Shantz, *Computer Specialist*

Deborah Skorstad, *Interim Costume Shop Manager*

Madison Sullivan, *Fine and Performing Arts Librarian*

Tina Swenson, *Administrator*

Tres Tracy Ballon, *Master Carpenter*

## Cast

Caroline

Brenda

Mary Agnes

April

Miss Farrow

Gregg

Eddie

Mike et al

Hailey Henderson\*

Masha Rojkova°

Bella Brown°

Joellen Sweeney\*

Asialani Holman\*

Erika Vetter\*

Nick Bryant\*

Brandon Pascal\*

## Creative Team

Director

Scenic Designer

Costume Designer

Lighting & Projections

Designer

Sound Designers

Prop Master

Technical Director

Stage Manager

Valerie Curtis-Newton†

Adair MacCormack\*

Guan Lee\*

Joshua Legate\*

Valerie Curtis-Newton†,

Jaime Dahl° & Andrew Gies°

Andrea Bush†

Alex Danilchik†

Elliot Schumacher°

## Crew

Hair and Makeup Styling

Wardrobe Supervisor

Wig Artist

Lead Cutter

House Managers

Photographer

Light Board Operator

Sound Board Operator

Costume Crew

Chanté Hamann\*

Jessica Moreno Caycho\*

Jenn Hill

Ricky German

Arlo Liddell°

Chyanne Noble°

Logan Guerrero°

Sara Yonke°

Andrew Geis°

Alicia Crowley°

Cassidy Barrows°

Jeremy Steckler°

Magdalena Benavides°

Robyn Yuan°

Sandra Huevo-Menjivar°

Natalie Modlin°

Rachel Mills°

° Undergraduate student at UW

\* Graduate student at UW

## Up Next at UW Drama:

### CABLAB: **Frozen: a play**

By Bryony Lavery / Directed by Andrew Coopman  
Feb 27 - Mar 1 / Cabaret Theatre, Hutchinson Hall

A play about retribution, remorse, evil, and redemption that explores the interwoven lives of three strangers as they try to make sense of the unimaginable.

### MAINSTAGE: **The Women of Lockerbie**

By Deborah Brevoort / Directed by Kristie Post Wallace  
March 5 - 15 / Hughes Penthouse Theatre

Inspired by the true story of one town's quest to convert an act of hatred into an act of love.

And coming this spring...**Cabaret** directed by Tim Bond!  
April 25 - May 17 in the Jones Playhouse

All shows on sale now at [drama.uw.edu](http://drama.uw.edu)

## STUDY DRAMA!

Check out these Spring Quarter 2020 courses with **no** prerequisites:

### **DRAMA 171: The Broadway Musical**

Explore how musicals have both reflected and shaped American culture, especially around issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, social justice, and equality.

Instructor: David Armstrong / Credits: 5, VLPA, DIV

### **DRAMA 180: Collaboration and Inclusion: Ways of Working Together**

Students of all majors will explore styles of working with people to shape effective environments for communication and collaboration in pursuit of creation, problem solving, and discovery.

Instructor: Geoff Korf / Credits: 5, VLPA

### **DRAMA 215: Visual Thinking in Theatrical Design**

Engineers, scientists, poets, visual artists, theatre making, and more: build your visual literacy and understanding of how images are constructed to work with and against the way we see.

Instructor: Skip Mercier / Credits: 5, VLPA

### **DRAMA 365: Women Playwrights of Color**

An in-depth exploration of the work of contemporary, female playwrights of color like Lynn Nottage, Quiara Alegria Hudes, Tanya Saracho, and Kristina Wong.

Instructor: Stefka Mihaylova / Credits: 5, DIV, I&S, VLPA

### **Joshua Legate: (Lighting Designer / Projections Designer) he/him**

**Hometown:** Kalispell, Montana

MFA, Theatre Studies, Binghamton State University of New York; BA, Drama, University of Montana; AA, Communications, Flathead Valley Community College

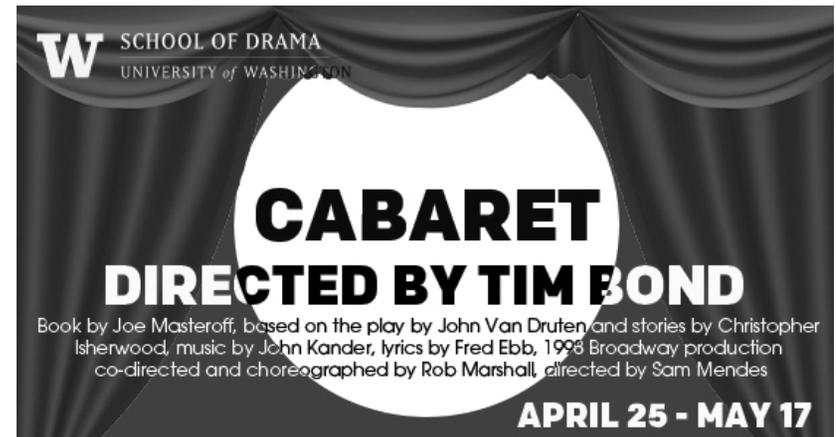
Joshua most recently designed lighting for *This Moment* with the University of Washington Musical Theater Program and *Someday I'll Write This Down* with Flathead Valley Community Theatre. Other credits include The Stampede Player's production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* with The Union Colony Civic Center in Greeley, Colorado, Colorado State University's production of *Appropriate* in Fort Collins, Colorado, and *Galumph Dance Inc.* from Binghamton, New York. Joshua is a member of Blue Moon Over Seattle and is thrilled to be learning and working with the University of Washington School of Drama.

### **Julie Kramer** (Playwright / Adapter)

Julie Kramer is a New York-based director and writer. She directed her adaptation of Rona Jaffe's *The Best of Everything* at HERE in New York in 2012. The play was a *New York Times* and *Time Out* "Critics Pick." As a director, Kramer's work has been seen at Theater Under the Stars (Houston) and Pioneer Theater (Salt Lake City) and in New York at The Tank, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Keen Company, SOMEWHAT, New Georges, The Lion, FringeNYC, Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, and NYU/Strasberg. Julie is on the faculty of The Tepper Semester/Syracuse University, and is a member of SDC, where she serves on the Political Engagement Committee.

### **Rona Jaffe** (Author)

Rona Jaffe (1931 – 2005) was an American novelist and magazine writer. Born in Brooklyn, New York, Jaffe—the granddaughter of construction magnate Moses Ginsberg—grew up on New York's Upper East Side before graduating from Radcliffe College in 1957 at the age of 19. She wrote *The Best of Everything* while working as an associate editor at Fawcett Publications in the 1950s. Her *New York Times* obituary noted that she had "numerous romantic adventures," but never married, once dismissively describing marriage as "the rat race to the altar." She wrote sixteen books altogether, the last, *The Room-Mating Season*, published in 2003. An editor who worked with Jaffe, Robert Gottlieb, said on her death that he believed her finest work was *Mr. Right Is Dead*, a 1965 collection of short stories about a call girl. Jaffe died during a vacation to London in 2005. She was 74.



**Valerie Curtis-Newton (Director)****Hometown:** Vernon, CT

MFA, University of Washington; BA, College of the Holy Cross

Head of Directing at the University of Washington's School of Drama, Valerie also serves as the Artistic Director for *The Hansberry Project*, an African American theatre lab. She has worked with theatres across the country including: The Guthrie Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Actors' Theatre of Louisville, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Children's Theatre, The Mark Taper Forum, New York Theatre Workshop, among others. She has been awarded the National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Career Development Grant for Directors, the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation's Gielgud Directing Fellowship, Theatre Puget Sound's Gregory A. Falls Award for sustained achievement, *Seattle Times'* 13 most influential citizens of the past decade, *the Stranger* Genius Award in performance and the *Crosscut* Courage Award for culture.

**Jaime Dahl: (Sound Designer) they/he****Hometown:** Mukilteo, WA

Jaime Dahl is a sound designer and composer pursuing a BA in drama design. Previous sound design and mixing credits include *Three Sisters* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with UW Drama, *Vietgone* with *UW UTS*, *Anonymouse* and *In The Forest Grimm* at Seattle Children's Theatre, and *Legally Blonde* at Central Washington University. They are also the resident sound designer for Asbestos Productions which is producing *Everyone Gets Eaten By Sharks* February 21 in Hutchinson Hall.

**Margaret Adair MacCormack (Scenic Designer) she/her****Hometown:** Denver, CO

BA, Technical Theatre, CSU East Bay

Adair is proud to present her thesis design as a graduate student. Her previous works here were *Learned Ladies* and *Rutherford and Son*. Please look for her work in the Seattle area in the future! Thanks to all friends, family, staff and faculty who have supported her in her journey.

**Elliot Schumacher (Stage Manager)****Hometown:** Shoreline, WA

Elliot has been involved in theatrical productions since his freshman year at Shorecrest Highschool. His most recent productions include UW Drama's *The Learned Ladies* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He is a sophomore at the UW and is intending to major in computer science but is interested in seeing where theater will take him.

**Guan Lee (Costume Designer)****Hometown:** Taipei, Taiwan

BFA, Costume Design, Taipei National University of the Arts

Guan is the long-term costume designer for several troupes in Taipei Fringe Festival. As a member of the Taiwan representative dance group, Ou Yang Hui Chen Art Dance Company, Guan traveled as the art consultant for festivals in France, Hungary, Japan, and many other countries. Guan's most recent works at UW are *Body Awareness* directed by Kristie Post Wallace, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* directed by Scott Kaiser. Special thanks and love for everyone in *The Best of Everything*, the costume shop staff, ASE workers, UW Drama faculty, my family, friends, and boyfriend.

**Director's Note**

*The Best of Everything* was a 1950s best-seller which illuminated the trials and tribulations of the women who were empowered after WWII and Korea to work outside the home. Long before our #MeToo moment, Rona Jaffe was brave enough to touch on the gritty secret of what it meant to be a woman in the workforce, a world in which women were fair game and where they still dreamed of having everything: a home, a husband, a career.

Our lives are made up of choices, of sacrifices, of joys and of disappointments. In the end, we hope to be free – making choices that we can live with. Julie Kramer has taken Rona Jaffe's novel and adapted it into a beautiful play, full of humor and of heartbreak. It is, alternately, just like life and larger than life. The book is still in print. I hope after watching our production, you will each feel compelled to give it a read. Enjoy the show!

- Valerie Curtis-Newton, Director

**Why this play?**

The season selection process here in the School of Drama is quite different than the process in a traditional theatre. Our stages are not just stages, they are an extension of our classrooms—laboratories where our students test the skills and concepts they are learning in class. Because of this, our shows are selected first and foremost with pedagogical goals in mind. We asked our faculty to share their thoughts on why *The Best of Everything* was selected for our season. Enjoy!

"This show provided an interesting opportunity to give our designers—and our actors—practice dealing with stylistic shifts in method of storytelling. We believe that we're in naturalism, but then we shift into an alternate reality state. How does this affect our choices in color, light, shadow, silhouette, rhythm, tempo, and scale? For our actors, how do they go about finding truth inside of style? It's a great, juicy challenge.

Also, anytime we can give our students the opportunity to work under a master director like Valerie Curtis-Newton, we jump at the opportunity. For all the student artists involved in this show, the chance to experience Val's process and leadership is a golden one."

- Deborah Trout, Head of Design

## ARTIST BIOS

### **Bella Brown (Mary Agnes)** *she/her*

**Hometown:** Seattle, WA

Bella is a junior pursuing degrees in drama performance and communication. She is thrilled to be on the mainstage for her fourth show at UW. Past credits including *Three Sisters*, *Romeo and Jules*, and *12 Ophelias (a play with broken songs)*. Outside of UW, Bella has done readings for ACT Theatre/Seagull Project and Strawberry Theatre Workshop. She is a graduate of Young Actor Institute and has done extensive work with 14/48: HS and Young Americans' Theater Company. Bella would like to thank Valerie for her inspiring insightfulness and artistry.

### **Nick Bryant (Eddie)**

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

BFA, Northern Illinois University

Nick has appeared in numerous productions professionally in Chicago at theaters such as Theatre Wit, Interrobang Theatre Project, and Organic Theatre Company. Regionally, Nick has appeared at the Texas Shakespeare Festival (*Twelfth Night*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Man of La Mancha*, *The Princess and the Players*), the Camden Shakespeare Festival (*Much Ado About Nothing*, *Romeo and Juliet*) and internationally with the Moscow Art Theatre (*The Cherry Orchard*). Much love to Mom and Dad.

### **Hailey Henderson (Caroline)**

**Hometown:** Moab, UT

BFA, Performance Theatre, Westminster College

Hailey Henderson is in her third year in the PATP, and this is her swan song! She moved to Seattle from Eugene, Oregon, where she worked professionally at several theatre companies both in Eugene and in Portland. UW credits include: Mina in *12 Ophelias (a play with broken songs)*, Harper in *Angels in America Part 2: Perestroika*, Hattie in *Laundry and Bourbon*, Paula in *Fefu and her Friends*, Belise in *The Learned Ladies* and most recently, Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She would like to thank the faculty, her colleagues, and her friends and family who have supported her during her graduate school journey.

### **Asialani Holman (Miss Farrow)** *she/her*

**Hometown:** Anaheim Hills, CA and Long Beach, CA

BA, Theatre Arts Performance - Acting, California State University

Asialani is a second-year MFA actor in the Professional Actor Training Program. At UW, she has performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Learned Ladies*, *In the Heart of America*, and *Cripple Can't Dance*. Outside of UW, she has performed in roles such as Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Heather McNamara in *Heathers: The Musical*, Marcy Park in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Kaliopé in *She Kills Monsters*. She has also originated the roles of Josephine in *Flapper's Last Chance* and Astrid in *#ethnocentricCRAP*. Asialani is SAFD certified and has trained at the International Stunt School. She would like to thank her family and loved ones for their continued support and encouragement. A special thank you to her fiancé Daniel.

### **Brandon Pascal (Mike et al)** *he/him*

**Hometown:** Templeton, CA

BA, Theatre Performance, California State University, Long Beach

Brandon is an actor, writer, and musician from California, and so excited to be finishing his graduate experience at the UW School of Drama in *The Best of Everything!* Previous credits with UW include: Theseus (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Chrysale (*The Learned Ladies*), Von Berg (*Incident at Vichy*), Angel/Henry (*Angels in America Part 2: Perestroika*), and H (*12 Ophelias (a play with broken songs)*). Selected credits prior to UW: Krogstad (*A Doll's House*), Rudolpho (*A View from the Bridge*), Duncan/Porter/Seyton (*Macbeth*), Shelley Levene (*Glengary Glen Ross*), Demetrius (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Angel (*RENT*) and others. Brandon would like to thank the brilliant cast and crew of *The Best of Everything*, Elliot Schumacher for his generous organization, Valerie Curtis-Newton for her continued guidance, and Bridget Connors for always facilitating joyous character exploration. Enjoy!

### **Masha Rojkova (Brenda)** *she/her*

**Hometown:** Moscow, Russia, and Brush Prairie, WA

Masha is thrilled to make her School of Drama debut. She was last seen as Margaret/Borachio in UTS's *Much Ado About Nothing* and in the *Platinum Project* at Portland Center Stage. She is represented by TCM Models & Talent. Masha would like to thank Valerie for sharing her talents and humor and creating an atmosphere to play, Amy Thone and Jane Nichols for their wisdom and generosity, her lovely friends and family for their patience and love, our cast, creatives, and crew for the wealth of work and talent they've put in and for their genuine kindness.

### **Joellen Sweeney (April)** *she/her*

**Hometown:** Portland, OR

BA, Theatre and Spanish, Willamette University

Joellen is a first-year in the Professional Actor Training Program, and is thrilled to make her UW debut in *The Best of Everything*. Her Portland, Oregon credits include: Charlotte Corday in *The Revolutionists* (Artists Repertory Theatre), Sonya in *Uncle Vanya* (Portland Experimental Theatre Ensemble), Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Anonymous Theatre) and Ludovica in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* (Shaking The Tree). Joellen is also a co-founder of Bedrock Theatre, a company that produces original adaptations of myths and legends along hiking trails. Many thanks to Val, the cast and crew, and Alec.

### **Erika Vetter (Gregg)**

**Hometown:** Monument, CO

BA, Acting, University of Northern Colorado

Recent Credits: Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (University of Washington) and W in *Lungs* (Really Really Theatre Group). Other credits include: Armande in *The Learned Ladies* (University of Washington), Rose in *The Flick* (Mendocino Theatre Co. - CA), Celia in *As You Like It* (Classics on the Rocks - NYC), and Vera in *A Month In The Country* (Parnassus Theatre Co. - NYC). Immense gratitude to Val, the cast and crew, and Mr. F.