

MEDIA INFORMATION

Tuesday, April 2, 2019



UW School of Drama presents *Romeo and Jules*, a gender-expansive reimagining of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*

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The University of Washington School of Drama will present *Romeo and Jules*, a gender-expansive reimagining of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, featuring a large cast of undergraduates from across the UW-Seattle campus community, April 17 – 28 in the Jones Playhouse at UW.

The script is co-adapted by School of Drama Associate Director Geoff Korf and freshman Darby Sherwood, and directed by Korf, with additional text and acting coaching from School of Drama faculty member Amy Thone (who is currently appearing in ACT Theatre's production of *Romeo + Juliet!*) and choreography by local choreographer Alice Gosti.

"It's important to me that theatre is timely and relevant to its audience," says Korf. "We are thrilled that so many members of the community love to come and see our shows, and we also understand that we are here first and foremost to serve students, and I think this adaptation relates very clearly to what's going on with students right now. I think that the School of Drama is a little late to the party when it comes to acknowledging gender-expansive identities, so I'm really happy that this production is doing that. It's also important to me that the production reflects the specific students who are in the show, and so the process has been very deliberate in trying to solicit the unique skills, expertise, and points of view that came into the room once we had a company."

Korf continues, "Our intent with this adaptation is not at all to undermine Shakespeare, but to expand on what he gave us. We are embracing and relishing Shakespeare, but adapting it to fit a different world than the world of 500 years ago—or even five years ago."

The play's co-adapter, freshman Darby Sherwood, adds, "This production has given me a new outlook on Shakespeare and helped me realize that the power of plays like *Romeo and Juliet* comes from the way that a group of people can bring the messages and relationships to life, not necessarily from hearing each word spoken exactly as it was written centuries ago."

Korf has been a member of the UW Drama faculty since 2002. Geoff previously served as Head of Design, and now holds the Floyd U. Jones Endowed Professorship in Lighting Design, as well as being the Associate Director of the school. Korf previously directed our production of *A U-Dubber's Night's Dream*, which similarly engaged a large, cross-campus community in an adaptation of a Shakespearean work. Korf has been a member of the ensemble of Los Angeles' Cornerstone Theater Company since 1996. Considered a pioneer in the field of community-based theatre, Cornerstone makes new plays "with and about" communities, bringing together ensembles of professional artists and "people who would never think of themselves as artists" to produce "works of excellence based on the stories, concerns and issues of a given community." [<https://cornerstonetheater.org/about/>]

The production is a master's thesis for costume designer Lindsey Halfhill and lighting designer Ranleigh Starling, and the UW Drama mainstage debut for set designer Em Allen.

Romeo and Jules

Adapted by Geoff Korf and Darby Sherwood
From William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
Directed by Geoff Korf

DATES & LOCATION

April 17 – 28, 2019

Wednesday – Saturday at 7:30

Sunday at 2:00

DATES TO NOTE:

Previews April 13 & 16 at 7:30 PM

Opening night: Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 PM

Pay-What-You-Can Wednesday April 24 (day-of-show only, \$1 minimum)

[Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse](#)

4045 University Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105

ARTISTS



Director and Co-Adapter: Geoff Korf (UW Drama faculty)

Geoff Korf (he/she/they/ze/Geoff) is the Associate Director of the School of Drama and holds the Floyd U. Jones Endowed Professorship in Lighting Design. Geoff previously directed UW Drama's production *A U-Dubber's Night's Dream*. Korf received an MFA from the Yale School of Drama, and has taught at California Institute of the Arts, Southern California Institute of Architecture, and the University of Michigan. Professor Korf has been designing lighting for more than thirty years and has designed for many prominent theatres throughout the U.S.A. including on Broadway, at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Seattle Rep, The Guthrie Theatre, The Goodman Theatre, Berkeley Repertory, San Francisco Opera, The Old Globe, La Jolla Playhouse, and the Mark Taper Forum. Geoff has been a member of the Ensemble of Cornerstone Theater in Los Angeles since 1996. Geoff has also designed lighting for a number of museums including the Huntington Library's main exhibit of rare books.



Co-Adapter: Darby Sherwood (undergraduate Drama/Political Science pre-major)

Hailing from Aurora, Illinois, Darby Sherwood (she/her) is a freshman studying Drama and Political Science. So far at UW, Darby has done dramaturgy for the Undergraduate Theater Society's *The Last Witch* and played Cinderella's Mother/Harp/Sleeping Beauty in Stage Notes' *Into the Woods*. UTS and Stage Notes are both UW registered student organizations. She is also a member of the UW Chorale. Darby enjoys writing plays and is currently preparing for a reading of her play, *Two Heads of a Hydra*, at Annex Theatre later this month.



Choreographer: Alice Gosti (guest artist)

Alice Gosti (she/her) is an Italian-American choreographer, hybrid performance artist, curator and architect of experiences, working between Seattle and Europe since 2008. She holds a BA in Dance from the University of Washington, where she focused on choreography and experimental film. Gosti's work has been commissioned and presented nationally by On the Boards, Velocity Dance Center, Seattle Art Museum, Intiman Theatre, Vilcek Foundation at the Joyce (NY), ODC Theater (SF) as part of the SCUBA national touring network, Risk/Rewards Festival (PDX) and Performance Works Northwest (PDX). Her work has been recognized with numerous awards, commissions, and residencies, and she is the founder of Yellow Fish // Epic Durational Performance Festival, the world's only festival dedicated exclusively to durational performance.

CREATIVE TEAM:

Co-Adapters: Geoff Korf (UW Drama faculty) and Darby Sherwood (undergraduate pre-major)

Choreographer: Alice Gosti (guest artist)

Costume Designer: Lindsey Halfhill (3rd year MFA designer)
Lighting Designer: Ranleigh Starling (3rd year MFA designer)
Set Designer: Em Allen (2nd year MFA designer)
Sound Designer: Adair MacCormack (2nd year MFA designer)
Stage Manager: Shigeko Calos-Nakano (guest artist)
Text/Acting Coach: Amy Thone (UW Drama faculty)
Original Compositions By: Taylor King (Drama major)

CAST: (All cast members are UW undergraduates)

Romeo: Elliot Chinn (Drama major)
Montague/Guest at Ball: Elizabeth Myers (pre-major)
Lady Montague/Guest at Ball: Rachel Mellman (Drama/Astronomy major)
Benvolio: Taylor King (Drama major)
Abram: Lilli Glock (Drama major)
Prologue/Balthasar/Singer: Miranda White (Drama major)
Jules: Jaime Dahl (pre-major)
Capulet: Spencer Goodin (pre-major)
Lady Capulet: Natalie Modlin (Drama major)
Nurse: Kendra Kolasinski (Drama major)
Tybalt: Cameron Dohrman (Drama major)
Sampson: Eduardo Perez (Drama major)
Gregory: Will Vetsch (Spanish major)
Escalus: Mattie Cardinale (Drama major)
Paris: Stefan Previs (Drama major)
Mercutio: Mira Marie Goins (Drama major)
Capulet Servingperson: Bella Brown (Drama major)
Sister Laurel/Guest at Ball: Anaïs Gralpois (Drama major)
Rosaline/Sister J/Ensemble: Abigail Warren (pre-major)
Aid to Escalus/Ensemble: Wichetney By (Drama major)
Montague Servingperson: Shyloh Summy (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies major)

TICKET PRICES

Access for students continues to be a top priority. Student ticket prices, which were lowered last year, will remain \$10 for regular performances and \$8 for previews. We will host a community **Pay-What-You-Can** the second Wednesday of each run.

Ticket prices for all UW Drama mainstage shows:

\$20 – Regular
\$14 – UWAA, UW Employee or Retiree, Senior
\$10 – Student
\$5 – TeenTix

Previews: \$10 – Regular / \$8 – Student

Tickets can be purchased at drama.uw.edu or through the ArtsUW Ticket Office: 206-543-4880, ticket@uw.edu.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

Check drama.uw.edu for full details

SPRING QUARTER

This Moment

An original devised work composed of songs written for the stage since the year 2000, created and performed by our Musical Theater cohort

Directed by Scott Hafso

Music Directed by Jordyn Meeker

May 10 – 12, 2019

Pay-What-You-Can Preview May 9

Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse

The Learned Ladies

By Molière, Translated by Richard Wilbur

Directed by Jane Nichols

May 22 – June 2, 2019

Previews May 18 & 21

Pay-What-You-Can Wednesday May 29

Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre

Body Awareness

By Annie Baker

Directed by Andrew Coopman and Kristie Post-Wallace

June 5 – 9, 2019

Preview June 4

Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse

ABOUT THE UW SCHOOL OF DRAMA

Led by Interim Executive Director Lynn Thomas and Associate Director Geoff Korf, the UW School of Drama is consistently ranked among the top theatre training programs in the country. Emerging actors, directors, and designers come from all over the world to study with our world-class faculty and prominent guest artists, such as Erik Ehn, Anne Washburn, Daniel Alexander Jones, and Meiyin Wang. Our audiences are adventurous theatre-goers who want the opportunity to see engaging, provocative, and beautiful work.

As an educational institution, UW Drama is able to produce the types of plays that are harder and harder to find on professional stages: large-cast shows with highly diverse casting, period pieces with opulent, detailed designs, and boundary-pushing plays that test form and style. We produce in three intimate, comfortable spaces on the UW Seattle campus: The Hughes Penthouse Theatre (the first purpose-built theatre-in-the-round in the U.S.), the Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse, and the Meany Studio Theater.

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