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THEATRE & DANCE 2025-26 EVENTS



Theatre & Dance

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The Olive Tree

By Satya Chávez

Nov. 7-16, 2025

Loft Theatre

Director

Assistant Director

Scenic Design

Costume Design

Lighting Design

Sound Design

Props Design

Technical Director

Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Managers

Cecilia J. Pang

Rebekah Jeffery

Bruce Bergner

Nia Quan

Jonathan Spencer

Stefanie Senior

Lucia Gordon

Jordan Feeler

Hannah Iverson

Eden Kartchner

Alysia Villarreal

***The Olive Tree* is the 2025-26 Roe Green Production. The CU Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance is grateful to donor Roe Green. The Roe Green Visiting Theatre Artist fund makes it possible to invite professional guest artists to campus each year to collaborate with students.**

**This year's Roe Green Visiting Artists are
Satya Chávez and Stefanie Senior.**

CAST

The Mother

Vianney Aguilar-Chavez

The Boy

Cooper Appleman

The Young Rebel

Andie Arrietta

The Olive Tree

Lyla Capparelli

Reem

Satya Chávez

The Young Heir/The Worker

Sydney Demerjian

The Olive Woman

Carlie Kauffman

The Mother/Guard

Madeleine McCormick

The Worker/Reem understudy

Margaret McMahon

The Father/The Grandfather/The King

Matthew de Meyrick

The Gatekeeper

Madison Price

PROGRAM NOTES

Synopsis and Playwright's Note

The Olive Tree is a story about inheritance—of trauma, of power, of memory—and the courage it takes to rewrite what we've been told is unchangeable.

When we began this journey, I kept returning to the image of a seed buried beneath scorched earth. Even after fire, even after centuries of being trampled or forgotten, it waits—quietly, stubbornly—for the right conditions to grow. This play is that seed. It asks: What do we do with the stories we inherit? The ones that were twisted, buried, or stolen? And how do we turn the ashes of empire into something living again?

Here, myth and memory coexist. The Storybook isn't just a magical object—it's a metaphor for history itself: who gets to write it, who gets erased and who has the power to restore what was lost. It also honors the traditions of storytelling that predate the written word—the songs, the spoken lineages, the histories passed down through those who did not possess the privilege to control the narrative in books. *The Olive Tree* celebrates those voices—the keepers of oral history—whose truths have survived through rhythm, through voice, through story.

At the heart of this piece is live-looping—a sonic metaphor for cycles of trauma, repetition and repair. Each loop represents the patterns we inherit, the ones we are called to disrupt. It's also a testament to the power of the individual artist who dares to wield that technology—to break a cycle, to build something new and to transform isolation into harmony.

This production asks for an ensemble that breathes as one organism—looping, harmonizing, moving together. We are not building a hierarchy; we are building a collective. Each voice, body, and sound is a vital branch in the growing tree of this piece.

May *The Olive Tree* remind us that stories, like roots, reach deeper than borders or time.

May it honor those who came before, and those who continue to fight for the right to exist, to create, and to be remembered.



ROE GREEN

Roe Green, arts patron and community activist, is chief executive officer of the Roe Green Foundation. With a BA in theatre and communications from the University of Colorado Boulder and a MA in theatre from Kent State University, her experience in stage and business management includes Porthouse Theatre, Cain Park, Cleveland Opera and Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park.

Today, she is President Emeritus of C.A.V.O.R.T. Inc. (Conference About Volunteers of Regional Theatre), serves on the foundation board of Kent State University, the board of the Cleveland Play House (where she is Honorary Producer of New Ground) and the board of Maltz Jupiter Theatre in Florida. She also created the Green House, a battered women's shelter in Geauga, Ohio.

Green is an avid traveler, having visited more than 160 countries, and sees theatre whenever she can. She received the Governor's

2009 Ohio Arts Council's Governor's Arts Patron Award, the 2012 Alumni Recognition Award from CU Boulder, the 2013 Dramatist Guild Fund Award and the Muse Award (2014) from the Cultural Council of Palm Beach.

In 2015, Green received the Kent State University College of the Arts' inaugural Centennial Award for her service and patronage, and the Cleveland Play House Super Nova Award. In 2017, she received the Theatre Forward Leadership Award at the Theatre Forward Chairman's Awards Gala, the 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2020 was named a winner of the Cleveland Arts Prize. In 2023, Green received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Kent State University.

Her gifts to CU Boulder have created the Roe Green Visiting Theatre Artist Program and the Roe Green Endowed Chair in Theatre. We all thank Roe Green (BA Theatre '70) for her munificent support of our department.

PERSONNEL

VIANNEY AGUILAR-CHAVEZ (The Mother), from Denver, is a master's student at CU Boulder. Her thesis focuses on providing access to students of color to higher education and representation in performing arts. She has been a part of CU Boulder's previous performance of *(Anon)ymous*. Her hobbies include arts and crafts, hiking and music! Aguilar-Chavez hopes you enjoy the show!

COOPER APPLEMAN (The Boy) is ecstatic to help bring *The Olive Tree* to the stage. Appleman is a first year theater student who plans on going into the acting BFA with a minor in geology! From Harrisonville, Missouri, Appleman has previously played a variety of roles such as Harry in *Mamma Mia!*, Max in *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Benvolio in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and many more. He would like to thank *The Olive Trees*'s incredible directing and management team, as well as his parents and friends back home for always supporting him.

LYLA CAPPARELLI (The Olive Tree) is so excited to be a part of the first ever production of *The Olive Tree*. She has been performing in musical theater for 8 years in Longmont and Louisville. Capparelli is currently a freshman at CU Boulder double majoring in psychology and theater. Previous roles include Regina George in *Mean Girls*, Yvette in *Clue* and Elle Woods in *Legally Blonde Jr.* Achievements include a Superior overall score in the 60th Annual Thespian Convention Musical Theater category as well as membership in the National Thespian Honor Society at Silver Creek High School.

SATYA CHÁVEZ (they/them) (Reem) is an award-winning composer, sound designer and performer whose work has been produced across the country. As an actor, Chávez has performed on stages including the Goodman Theatre, American Repertory Theatre, DCPA, Steppenwolf, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Dallas Theater Center, Cleveland Playhouse, the Kennedy Center, Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Kravis Center, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Marin Theatre Company, South Coast Repertory, Arizona Theatre Company, Arvada Center, Curious Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Colorado Shakespeare Festival and The Public San Antonio, among others. Recent performance credits include *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?* (Kravis Center, DCPA, Steppenwolf, Cleveland Playhouse and more), *Real Women Have Curves: The Musical* (A.R.T.), *In The Heights* 20th Anniversary Concert (O'Neill Theater), *Romance Depot* (Goodman Theatre), *American Mariachi* (Dallas Theater Center, South Coast Repertory, and more), *Refuge*, *The Happiest Song Plays Last* (Curious Theatre) and *Luchadora* (Seattle Children's Theater). Keep in touch @officialmrchavez or satyachavez.org.

SYDNEY DEMERJIAN (The Young Heir/The Worker), cannot wait to help bring *The Olive Tree* to life this fall. Previously, Demerjian has performed in the Wachusett Regional High School Music and Theater programs in Holden, Massachusetts. Most recently, she had the privilege of playing the roles of Wendy Darling in *Peter Pan* and Wendy and Grace/Queen Maureen in *Between the Lines*. As a freshman, Demerjian is pursuing a degree in political science on a pre-law track. She would like to thank the incredible *Olive Tree* team, her family and best buddies back home for their constant support!

CARLIE KAUFFMAN (The Olive Woman) is originally from Westchester, New York and moved to Santa Monica, California to finish her senior year of high school. She has done theater since she could walk and decided in her sophomore year of high school, after playing Marta in *Spring Awakening*, she wanted to pursue acting in film. She is a theater major hoping to specialize in acting next year! *The Olive Tree* is her first mainstage production at CU Boulder and she is super excited all of you are here to see it! If she has one thing to say, it's to pursue your dreams no matter how far or unreachable they seem. Enjoy the show ;)

MADELEINE MCCORMICK (Mother, The Guard): Hey everyone! My name is Madeleine, and I'm so excited you're here! I'm originally from Littleton, CO and am currently a junior studying Finance. I work in First-Year Advising at the Leeds School of Business and as a referee for the U.S. Soccer Federation. *The Olive Tree* is the first musical and third show I've performed in, following operas *Hänsel und Gretel* (Eklund Opera, 2024) and *The Mikado* (Empire Lyric Players, 2025). I love traveling and high places—I most recently did a trip through the Peruvian Andes where we reached 16,568 ft! I feel so incredibly grateful to be here; for the cast, for our wonderful director, for our playwright and for the management and production teams for making this show happen! And of course, to everyone who came to see the show: thank you for your support, we're happy you're here!

MARGARET MCMAHON (The Worker/Reem understudy) is excited to be making their CU Boulder stage debut! McMahon is a first year mechanical engineering student with a minor in Spanish. Originally from Duluth, Minnesota, McMahon has frequented lots of different stages. Some favorite credits include: Rosalie Hartson in *Decision Height* and Missy in *The Winter Wonderettes* at Boat Club Theater Productions. She also loved playing Persephone in *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, Cady Heron in *Mean Girls*, Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* and various plays and one acts at Duluth East High School. Another favorite role of McMahon's is Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* at the Duluth Playhouse. McMahon is so grateful to be part of this team, and is appreciative of the opportunity to grow as an artist. She would like to thank her family for guiding her in her endeavors and their boyfriend Greyson for being her rock and supporting her through everything.

MATTHEW DE MEYRICK (The King/Father), is excited to appear in his 22nd show and first original musical. Currently on a year-long exchange from Sydney, de Meyrick studies a Bachelor of Arts/Laws as a Sternberg Scholar for the Performing Arts. Recent credits include Frank in *Merrily We Roll Along* (UNSW), Douglas Panch in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain* (WTC). de Meyrick is thrilled to bring this role to life, presenting his first performance in Boulder and the United States.

MADISON PRICE (The Gatekeeper), better known as Maddie, a senior studying philosophy at CU Boulder, hails from Houston, Texas. When not engrossed in her studies, Price is working with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's Education Outreach program

as an administrative assistant for the Shakespeare & Violence Prevention Tour and a Camp Shakespeare AD. This is her first foray into theater performance, but vocal arts have been in her life since the start. She received classical vocal training at the High School for Performing and Visual Arts, and can't wait to share her voice with you today. Price sends a special thank you to her partner, Adam Galoul, and their pets, Mochi and Marty for their support in her first musical role!

BRUCE BERGNER (Scenic Designer) specializes in theatre scene design and experience design (XD), the design of immersive and themed events. He has designed stage scenery all over the nation, completing approximately 150 realized stage designs at established venues. He has won several design awards and founded an industry-affiliated professional master's MFA program at CU Boulder for Live Experience Design in 2016. His work has been exhibited in major showings in New York, Saint Louis and Prague. Bergner is an expert in interactive forms of theatre and destination design, spatial storytelling and experience design pedagogy. He is a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829 and The Themed Entertainment Association.

SATYA CHÁVEZ (Composer/Playwright/Music Director) is a multidisciplinary artist and award-winning composer, sound designer, and performer whose work has been produced across the country. Known for their innovative storytelling through live-looping, Chávez's work explores identity, justice, and collective liberation. As a composer, their most recent work includes *Refuge*, co-created with Andrew Rosendorf, winner of multiple Jeff Awards and honors including the Edgerton Foundation New American

Play Award, Venturous Theater Fund Grant, and MAP Fund Grant, *Memorabilia* (Jeff Award for Sound Design), *Black Bone* (Definition Theatre), *Corduroy* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater), and *Where Did We Sit on the Bus?*, a nationally touring one-person live-looping musical featuring Chávez's original compositions and performance (DCPA, Kravis Center, Cleveland Playhouse, Steppenwolf and more) Chávez's commissions include Goodman Theatre, TheatreSquared, Seattle Children's Theater, and The Denver Center for the Performing Arts. Chávez is the inaugural recipient of the Jeff Impact Fellowship. Follow @officialmrchavez or visit satyachavez.org.

LUCIA GORDON (Props Designer) is a junior in the sociology program at CU Boulder. She has worked in the theatre for two years now, working on multiple student led sandbox plays, as well as *John Proctor is the Villain* spring semester of 2025. She loves working at Radio 1190 and spending time with her dog and she hopes you all enjoy the show!

GIDEON HARRIS (Assistant Technical Director) (He/Him) is a junior studying engineering at CU Boulder. He wishes to go into theater after graduation.

HANNAH IVERSON (Stage Manager) is a recent graduate from the University of Colorado Boulder with her BFA in stage management. Recent credits include *Hope & Gravity* (BETC); *Heathers* (CU Boulder College of Music); *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *The Revolutionists* (CU Theatre & Dance); *The Winter's Tale*, and *One Man Two Guvnors* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival). Outside of theatre, she serves as a stage manager for the Aspen

Music Festival and School. During her time at CU Boulder, she served as the production manager for Sandbox, CU's resident student theatre series. Next, she will join the Denver Center for the Performing Arts' company as a stage management apprentice.

REBEKAH JEFFERY (Assistant Director) is a multi-hyphenate theatre scholar and practitioner who recently graduated from CU Boulder, receiving both their BA (August 2024) and MA (May 2025). Their graduate research focused on drag and gender performance. As a practitioner, they are a director, intimacy coordinator, stage manager and dramaturg. You may have seen their previous work as the assistant director for *The Play That Goes Wrong* and *Antigone* (CU Presents), and *Every Brilliant Thing* (Sandbox Student Series). They assistant stage managed *The Revolutionists* (CU Presents) and were the intimacy coordinator for *The Flick*, *Cymbeline* and several student directing scenes. Their most recent production was directing *Lipstick Traces* (Sandbox Student Series). @jeffery.rebekah

EDEN KARTCHNER (they/them) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore in the Design and Tech Management BFA program at CU Boulder with a concentration in stage management. They are so excited to be working on another CU Presents show! Kartchner has participated in the Sandbox Student Series at CU Boulder as the ASM for *Cymbeline* and *The Flick*, and as the SM for *She Kills Monsters*. Kartchner participated in *Pink Man (Or, The Only Indian In The Room)* at the Dairy Arts Center as assistant stage manager. In their "free time" Kartchner likes to craft, hang out with friends and participate in more theatre. They thank their friends and family for their support, the entire cast, crew and team for all their hard work, and members of the stage management and directing teams

for making this show such a meaningful experience. They hope you enjoy this amazing journey of a show!

STEFANIE SENIOR (she/they) (Sound Designer) is a freelance sound designer and engineer based in Chicago. Recent Chicago credits include: *Fiddler on the Roof* (Music Theatre Works); *Kid Prince and Pablo* (Lifeline); *A Christmas Carol* (Metropolis); *Antigone* (Northwestern); *The Prodigal Daughter* (Raven Theatre); *Jersey Boys* (Mercury Theatre). Recent Regional credits: *The Last Five Years* (Milwaukee Rep) and *Somewhere Over the Border* (People's Light/City Theatre). Senior also works on the podcast *I've Been Meaning to Listen to That*. stefaniemsenior.com

JONATHAN SPENCER (Lighting Designer) Broadway, Touring and Regional designs having collaborated on more than 140 productions and counting, including the world premier *Mr. Hollands Opus* at Ogunquit Playhouse. *RENT* 20th-25th Anniversary Tours with more than 1200 performances worldwide, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* National Tour, Off-Broadway: *Who's Holiday* (West Side Theatre), *Carrie Mae Weems Grace Notes: Reflections for Now* (John F Kennedy Center, Spoleto USA) *You Are Mine Own* Directed by Atom Egoyan (Spoleto USA). And recently designed the lighting for *NEWSIES* and *Little Shop of Horrors* at Theatre Under the Stars, Houston. Spencer teaches design here at the University of Colorado Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance and also in the Southern Oregon University summer Masters programs. Proud member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. JSpencerDesign.com

ALYSIA VILLARREAL (she/her) (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at the University of CU Boulder pursuing a double major in theatre and business. She is delighted to be making her CU Presents debut and beginning her journey in the university dynamic theatre community. Prior to CU Boulder, Villarreal served as a stage manager for numerous high school productions, where she cultivated her passion for collaboration and the organizational artistry that happens behind the scenes. She looks forward to expanding her experience in stage management and contributing to CU Boulder's vibrant creative environment. She would like to express her heartfelt gratitude to her mentors for their ongoing guidance, inspiration, and support as she continues to grow as a theatre artist and leader.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Technical Director	Gideon Harris
Light Board Operator	Ayana Glass
Sound Operator	Dylan Johnson
A1	Edith Claybon
Titles Operator	Gabe Patricio-Hughes
Day Time Wardrobe	Korinne Bishop
Wardrobe Crew	Andie Arrietta
	Halley Beebe
	Lily Van Gemert
Supertitle Technician	Nathan Hunt

Costume Shop Assistants: Katie Barcroft, Jonny Bashford, Elena Diederich, Savvy Gullett, Koral Jackson, Shannon Kosman, Avery Lichty, Kirra Lindauer, Josie McGinty, Davy Platt, Cyrus Porter, Brooke Rawcliffe, Quinn Shultz, Sasha Solovyev, Kai Symons, Emily Zhou

Shop Production Crew: Ayana Glass, Cheri Bauman, Eden Kartchner, Elizabeth Schlue, Evan Hunter, Gwen Burke, Hayley Delich, Hazel Palmer, Lauren Haas, Nathan Kimpel, Rachel Zwerenz, Rory Smith, Summer Levin, William Succich, Lucia Gordon, Payton Burns, Gideon Harris, Salvatore Bessey

Costume Shop Volunteers: Nathan Hunt, Riley Oswald, Kaylee Prestia, Joey Richards, Algernon Schneider, Ari Stern, Kendall Wilson

Costume Shop Practicum Students: India Butchart, Emma Myers

THEATRE EVENTS 2025-26

Oct. 3-12: **Pride and Prejudice**

By Kate Hamill

Adapted from the novel

by Jane Austen

"It hasn't met a rib it can't tickle."

—The New York Times



Nov. 7-16: **The Olive Tree**

By Satya Chávez

It's "Over the River and Through the Woods"—but instead of meadows and forests, it's "Across the abyssal ocean and up the unforgiving heights of the capitalist mountain."



Feb. 20-March 1: **Mr. Burns, a post-electric play**

By Anne Washburn

and Michael Friedman

"Downright brilliant."

—The New York Times



April 10-19: **The Prom**

By Chad Beguelin, Bob Martin

and Matthew Sklar

Drama Desk Award for Best Musical



DANCE EVENTS 2025-26

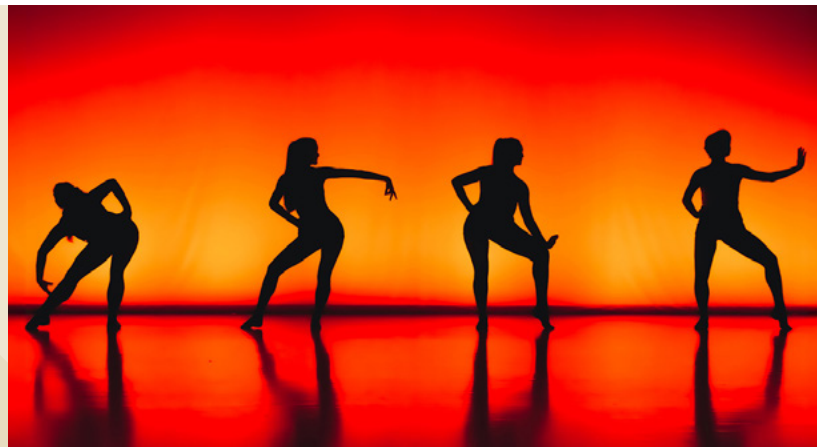
Oct. 17-19: **An Offering in Time**
MFA Thesis Works



Nov. 14-15: **Revel**
An evening of works presented
by MFA candidates in Dance



Nov. 20-21: **FRESH: Fall 2025**
A showcase of students' works
in progress



DANCE EVENTS 2025-26

Jan. 30-Feb. 1: **Catapult**
A BFA dance concert



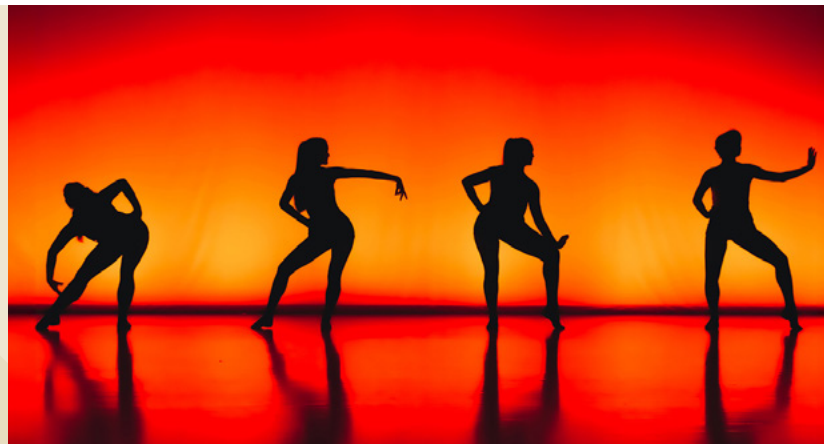
Feb. 27-March 1: **Open Space**
Curated by CU Dance
Connection



April 2-5: **The Current**
Dance works by faculty and
guest artists



April 17-18:
FRESH: Spring 2026
A showcase of students' works
in progress



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Working, A Musical (2024). Photo credit: RDG Photography.
On the cover: Something Rotten! (2025). Photo credit: RDG Photography.

PERSONNEL

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Department Chair

Kevin Rich

Associate Chair of Theatre

Ted Stark

Associate Chair of Dance and Director of Dance

Michelle Ellsworth

Production Coordinator

Bethany Rachel

Director of Dance Production

Kate Bashore

Dance Production Associate

Mackenzie Derrick

Assistant Director of Dance Production

Lisa Engelken

Costume Production Director

Ted Stark

Assistant to the Costume Production Director

Veronica Dewey

Technical Director

Jordan Feeler

Associate Technical Director

Stephen Balgooyen

Music/Accompanist Coordinator for Dance

Jesse Manno

Business Manager

Jeanine McCain

Program Coordinator

Teresa Gould

Administrative Coordinator

Madysen Hunter

Student Administrative Assistant

Camden Hornor

Academic Advisor

Jessica Baron

Costume Storage Supervisor

Savannah Gullet

Costume Shop Bookkeeper

Sydney Sowl

Wardrobe Supervisor

Brooke Rawcliffe

Dance Costume Coordinator

Tyreis Hunte

Dance Events Coordinator

Rhianna Cranston

Theatre Recruiting Assistant

Ava Scott

Front of House Manager

Peyton Melun

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Peyton Melun

Cade Heaton

Brianna Meza-Sauzamede

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Dylan Thierry

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James Whalen

Lead Box Office Assistants

Caitlin Amero

Aidan Biffinger

Box Office Assistants

Macy Crow

Remy DeParis

Joel Ferst

Johnette Martin

Sallu Young

Current as of Oct. 1, 2025