

CU ★ PRESENTS

2020-21 Season
Digital program



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Contents

Click on an item to navigate to its page.

**In *Appropriate*, America grapples
with its ghosts ★**

Performance program

CU Presents Digital

Coming up at CU Theatre & Dance

Your support matters

CU Presents personnel

CU ★ PRESENTS is the home of performing arts
at the University of Colorado Boulder.



*Remarkable performances are the heart of
CU Theatre & Dance.*



*The Department of Theatre & Dance acknowledges that the University sits upon land within **the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho** peoples and are grateful to have the opportunity to be here. Further, we acknowledge the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to lands that make up Colorado. We recognize and pay our respects to these Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories. We pay our respects to the ancestors, elders, relations past, present and emerging.*



In *Appropriate*, America grapples with its ghosts

By Becca Vaclavik

appropriate

adj.

1. suitable or fitting for a particular purpose, person, occasion, etc.
2. belonging to or peculiar to a person; proper.

v.

1. to set apart, authorize, or legislate for some specific purpose or use
2. to take to or for oneself; take possession of
3. to take without permission or consent; seize; expropriate
4. to steal, especially to commit petty theft.

How is the American experience defined? Who defines it and what are its histories? These are questions playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins found himself digging into when he noticed how differently stories about White families and Black families are

critically received. Speaking to BOMB Magazine in 2018, **Jacobs-Jenkins said:**

“... Nobody calls *A Raisin in the Sun* or *The Piano Lesson* family dramas—they’re plays about the ‘Black experience in America.’ So I read all those ‘American family’ plays and started thinking about the way whiteness was being encoded. Like, how might I read these plays as being about the ‘white experience in America?’ ... I wanted to write a self-consciously ‘American family drama.’ ... I had this impulse to see what would happen if I made blackness present but essentially invisible.”

The result was his work *Appropriate*—whether pronounced ap·PRO·priate or appropri·ATE· is intentionally vague; both definitions are present on the opening pages of the script—a play about a White family unpacking their family’s dilapidated Arkansas plantation in the wake of their patriarch’s death. It is “classic” American family drama. But it’s also brimming with more, through its double meanings in the text and cultural iconography.

“I like that something can look like one thing, but mean two different things,” **said Jacobs-Jenkins** in

an interview with Vogue. “Language is really unstable in that way.”

Heather Kelley, who serves as the production’s dramaturg as well as a cast member, encourages audiences to listen for how the characters discuss ownership—of the property, of people—as well as how ghosts, both literal and figurative, are present in the play.

“This play asks who’s *not* there on stage—whose story is not being told, whose story is not being privileged—in a very deliberate and meaningful way,” said Kelley. “How often—when people think of an American family—are we picturing a White one? And what does that mean? How can we begin to unpack and challenge that in all forms?”

“[As White cast and audience members,] we have a responsibility to know as much as we can about this history and grapple with its ongoing perpetuation and legacy, rather than rest in our privilege.”

*The Department of Theatre & Dance production of **Appropriate** is available to stream at cupresents.org from April 23-30, 2021. Virtual tickets start at \$7.*

Measure for Measure

A play by William Shakespeare

March 12, 2021

Director	Ashlyn Barnett
Videographer/Editor	Michael Bateman
Dramaturg	Kaitlin Nabors
Stage Manager	Sabrina Mason

The Department of Theatre & Dance is grateful to donor Roe Green for making our 2020-21 theatre season possible during these challenging times. This year, Roe Green Visiting Theatre Artist funds have been used to hire professional videographers to help us stream our theatre productions. We are thrilled to welcome Michael Bateman as one of those guest artists.

Cast

In alphabetical order

ROLE	NAME
Lucio	Darcy Brander
Claudio	Tanis Gonzales
Duke	Cameron Hazlip
Escalus/Friar Thomas/Juliet	Jo Hoagland
Isabella	Lucinda Lazo
Mistress Overdone/Mariana	Katie Lennon
Narrator/Provost	Ben Parungo
Angelo	Jude Stivers

Director's note

Measure for Measure deals with the equivocal nature of legal justice: how justice is unfairly administered onto some while the misdeeds of others get overlooked. Our play explores how laws themselves can be unjust, and how enforcing such laws can lead to moral ambiguity within figures in power. But is it those in power we should blame, or the system of power itself? Does power corrupt man, or does man himself corrupt the seat of power? Our *Measure for Measure* explores these questions and proposes no simple answer.

Dramaturg's note

Measure for Measure is one of Shakespeare's "problem plays," that is, it doesn't really fit into the classification of comedy, tragedy or history. Instead, it focuses on a group of people dealing with a specific problem or injustice in their society without making a judgement on whether it should be classified as comedy or tragedy. In our production of *Measure*, not only did we have the problems in the text, we also have the problems that come with a production completely over Zoom. We have used this opportunity of virtual theatre to really focus our

production down to the essentials—the characters and language. One of the primary themes we want to highlight in our production is Justice. What does it actually mean? Who does it benefit? What does civil justice look like compared to moral justice? As the characters in the play are met with challenges, they must decide whether the civil or the moral choice is the best ... or at least the lesser of two evils. Just as the play leaves the audience to decide whether it is a comedy or a tragedy, the audience will also be left with questions on how just justice actually can be.

CU Theatre & Dance

Production team

VIRTUAL TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Cooper Braun-Enos

VIRTUAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANT

Hayley Parnell

NON-EQUITY DEPUTIES

Katie Lennon

COSTUMES

Costume Shop production assistants:

Mari Beazley, Darcy Brander, Kaylyn, Buehler, Celeste Fenton, Sarah Jeffers, Joe Kennedy, Victor Longman, Graham Longworth, Emily Ray, Winnie Wenger. **Practicum students:** Matthias Bolon, Stephanie Castro Rivera, Evan Cerda, Rachel Fields, Zoe Fischhoff, Eric Gaydon, Cameron Hazlip, Grace Kohler, Sabrina Mason, Sophia Morris, Kinari Rima

SCENERY AND ELECTRICS

Scene shop production assistants:

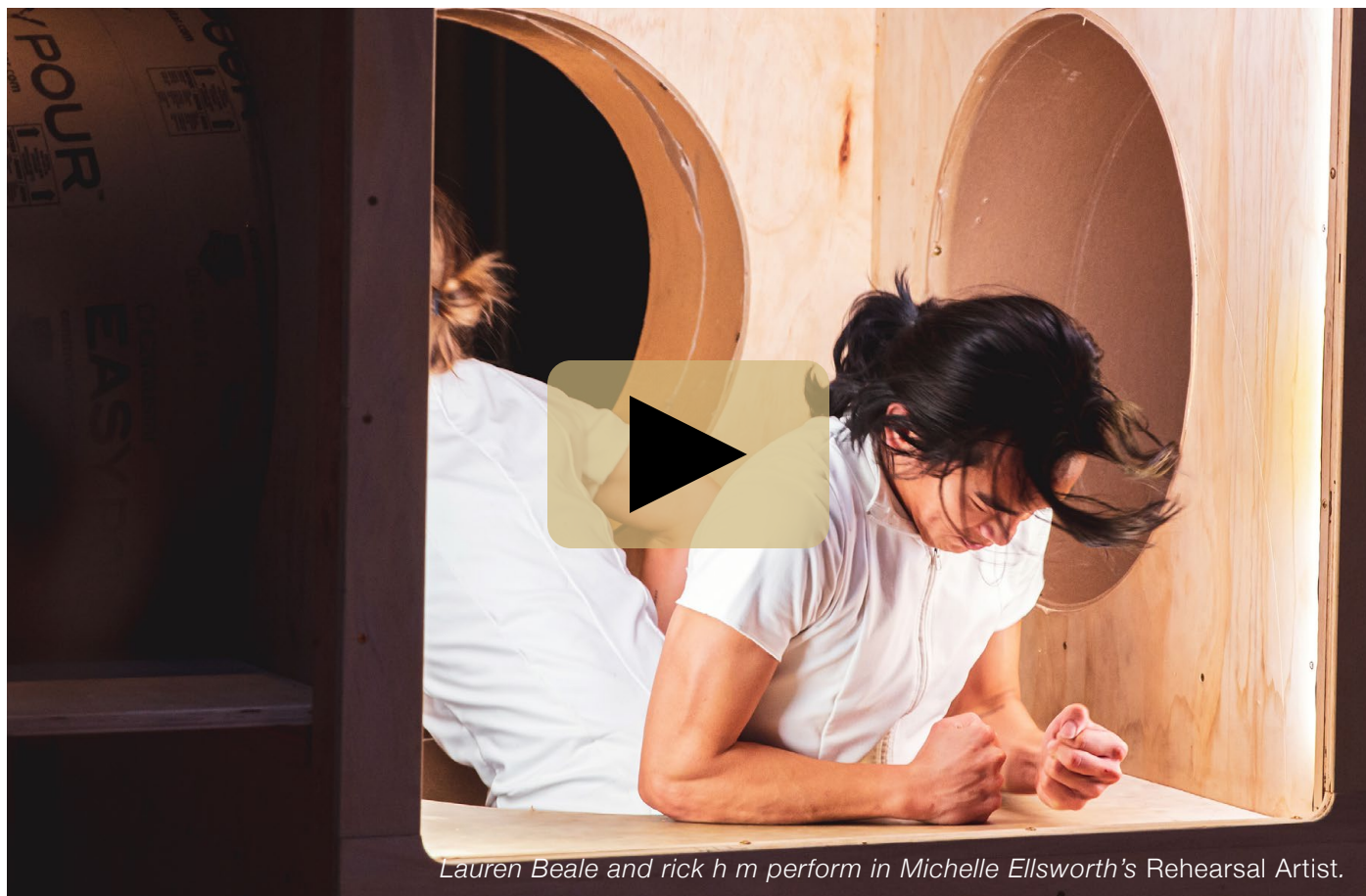
Stephanie Castro-Rivera, Peri Cooper, Aleighya Dawkins, Asher Farr, Rachael Fields, Cali Greenbaum, Nikky Haabestad, Aiden Heydt, Ari Kutzer, Kyle Lawrence, Calvin Logan, Hannah Male, Edwin McArthur, Sam Morin, Vik Padilla, Hayley Parnell, Connor Robertson, Kelsea Sibold, Logan Wallace, Madelyn Wible, Destin Woods. **Production Practicum students:** Matthias Bolon, Kaylyn

Buehler, Natalie Connelly, Claudia Davis, Jo Hoagland, Clara Hoppe, Greta Hooston, Isabella Jones, Mimi Kuntz, Maya Owens, Hayley Parnell, Emily Ray, Taylor Rivet, Connor Robertson, Stephanie Talder. **Lighting Practicum students:** Darcy Brander, Lexi Brooker, Christian Castañeda, Evan Cerda, Rita DiSibio, Bennet Forsyth, Eric Gaydon, Victoria Harbison, Aidan Heydt, Greta Hooston, Wesley Juels, Mimi Kuntz, Maya Owens, Lauren Perlis, Marianne Pettis, Connor Robertson, Stephanie Talder

DANCE PRODUCTION

Technical crew: Nathan Bala, Aleighya Dawkins, Xaalan Dolence, Brealyn Hager, Sam Morin, Viktoria Padilla, Olivia Sander, James Solis-Gutierrez

CU ★ PRESENTS Digital



Lauren Beale and Rick H M perform in Michelle Ellsworth's Rehearsal Artist.

Watch. Listen. Gather. **Online.**

Each week, we bring you curated creations from the artists you'd see in any other CU Presents season, in the comfort of your own home.

[Learn more](#)

[Sign up for reminders
about new content](#)

Spring 2021 at CU Theatre & Dance



Measure for Measure

A play by William Shakespeare
Premiering March 12

[Learn more](#)



LoveFest:

A Concert of Songs, Scenes and
Stories from the musical Loveville High
Premiering April 2

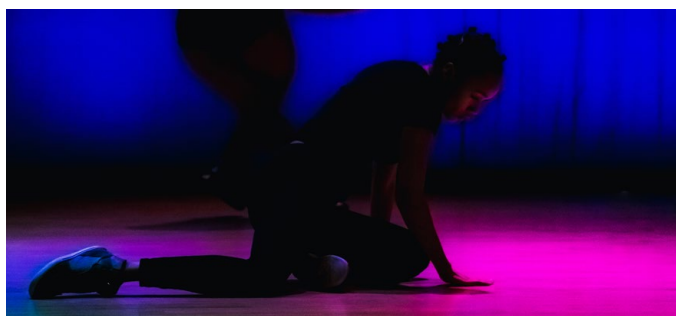
[Learn more](#)



2020-21 New Play Festival

Premiering April 15

[Learn more](#)



Open Space

Curated by CU Dance Connection
April 22-30

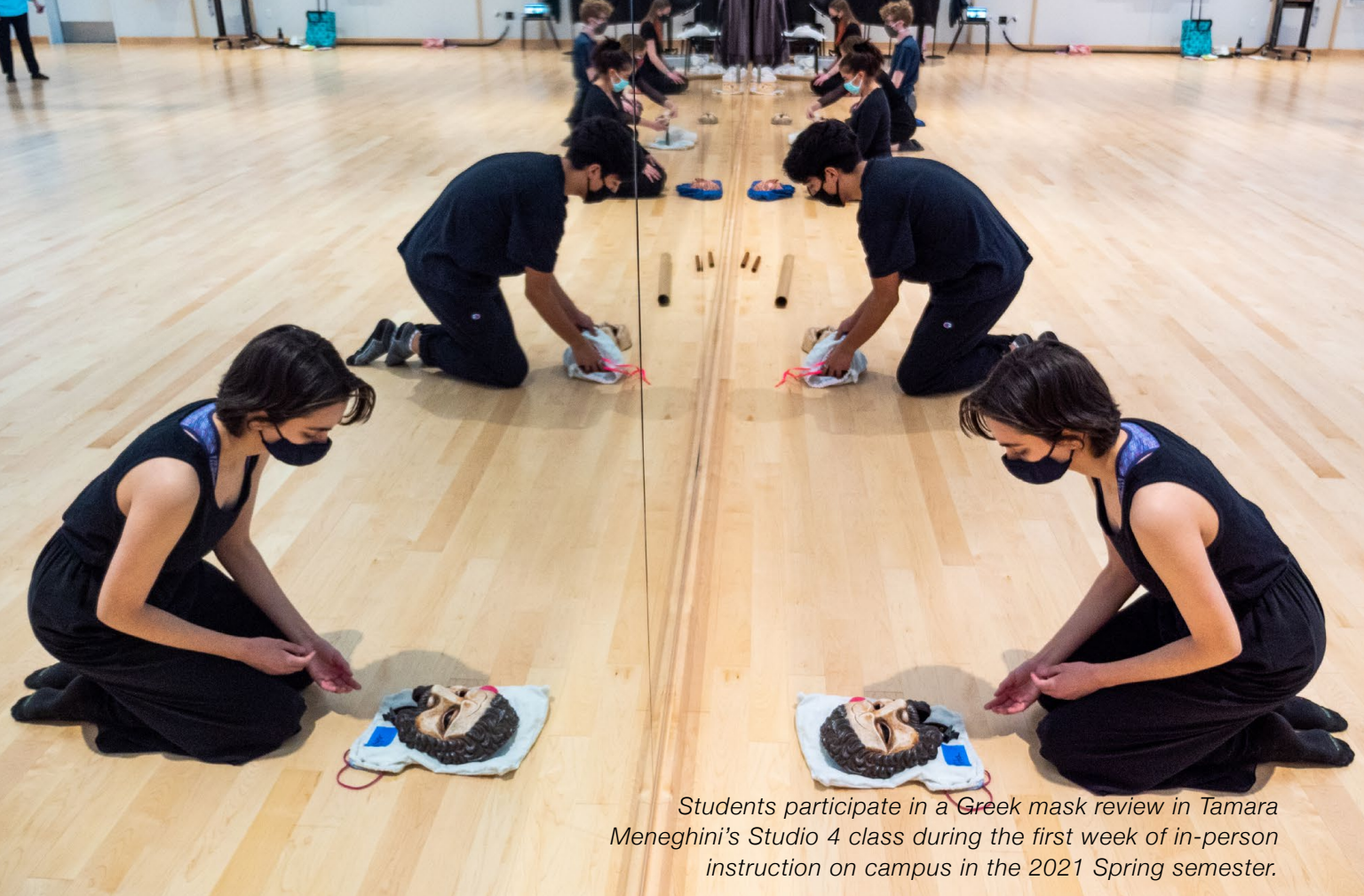
[Learn more](#)



Appropriate

A play by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
April 23-30

[Learn more](#)



Students participate in a Greek mask review in Tamara Meneghini's Studio 4 class during the first week of in-person instruction on campus in the 2021 Spring semester.

Today and every day, **your support matters.**

CU Presents inspires thousands of arts patrons of all ages every year. Your gift supports the people and activities of CU's Theatre & Dance Department in this time of uncertainty.

How to give to the Department of Theatre & Dance:

OR **Call to make a gift
at 303-492-3054**

Personnel

As of March 9, 2021

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES: DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Department Chair & Director of Dance
Erika Randall

Associate Chair & Director of Theatre
Kevin Rich

Associate Chair of Dance
Helanius Wilkins

Production Coordinator
Connie Lane

Director of Dance Production
Iain Court

Costume Production Director
Ted Stark

Technical Director
Jordan Feeler

Associate Technical Director
Stephen Balgooyen

Master Electrician
Cooper Braun-Enos

Music/Accompanist Coordinator for Dance
Jesse Manno

Assistant to the Director of Dance Production
Anna Pillot

Assistant to the Costume Production Director
Veronica Dewey

Business Manager
Stacy Witt

Program Coordinator
Stacy Norwood

Graduate Program Assistant
Patricia Paige

Production Outreach & Engagement Liaison
Ondine Geary

Administrative Assistant
Ciera Barrow

Academic Advisor
Jessica Baron

Costume Rental/Stock Manager
Jo Hoagland

Costume Tech Lab Assistant
Ana Langmead

Costume Shop Bookkeeper
Natalie Connelly

Costume Shopper
Clara Hoppe

Dance Costume Coordinator
Sarah Napier

Dance Events Coordinator
Constance Harris

Dance Video Recording/Archivist
rick h m

Front of House Manager
Matara Hitchcock

House Managers
Xaalan Dolance, Matara Hitchcock, Lauren Perlis

CU PRESENTS

Executive Director
Joan McLean Braun

Marketing and PR Director
Laima Haley

Operations Director
Andrew Metzroth

Interim Director of Communications, College of Music
Sabine Kortals Stein

Director, Macky Auditorium
Rudy Betancourt

Assistant Director of Marketing
Daniel Leonard

Assistant Director of Public Relations
Becca Vaclavik

House Manager
Rojana Savoye

Publications Specialist
Sabrina Green

Box Office Manager
Christin Woolley

Box Office Services Coordinator
Adrienne Havelka

Social Media Assistant
Erika Haase

Video Producer
Vanessa Cornejo

Interim Digital Communications Coordinator
Tiara Stephan

Marketing Assistant
Natalie Werner

Public Relations Assistant
Olivia Lerwick

2020-21 Digital Programs

March-May 2021

Editors

Sabine Kortals Stein
Becca Vaclavik

Designer

Sabrina Green

Contributors

Sabine Kortals Stein
Becca Vaclavik

Photography

Glenn Asakawa
Evan Boretz

Patrick Campbell
Nicholas Caputo