

CU ★ PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



Theatre & Dance

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Contents

Click or tap to view content

CUBT: Visionary philanthropist Roe Green invests \$5 million in CU theater program ★

Performance program

Upcoming events

Your support matters

Personnel

Editorial and design

Fall 2021

Editors

Sabine Kortals Stein
Becca Vaclavik

Designer

Sabrina Green

Photography

CU Boulder Photography
Ian McMorran

AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

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.*

CUBT: Visionary philanthropist Roe Green invests \$5 million in CU theater program

via *CU Boulder Today*

As the world of live theater strives to resume this fall after a long pandemic hiatus, alumna, arts aficionado and philanthropist Roe Green is helping welcome students and the community back with a record-breaking \$5 million gift for the CU Boulder theater program.

The donation—the largest ever to the **Department of Theatre & Dance**—will fund a complete acoustic upgrade for the University Theatre and establish endowed funds for student scholarships, theater maintenance and “launch” events designed to kick-start students’ careers.

“Roe Green’s philanthropy has transformed CU theater and will continue to benefit students, staff and faculty for decades to come,” said CU Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano.



To recognize Green's generosity, the university will change the name of the **University Theatre** to the Roe Green Theatre. After a period of renovations in 2022-23, the theater is expected to formally reopen under its new name in the fall of 2023.

Professor Bud Coleman, the Roe Green Endowed Chair in Theatre, has worked with Green for almost 20 years to address the needs of the CU Department of Theatre & Dance. "She is more than a fairy godmother; she is our celebrated alumna, beneficent donor and lifelong friend," he said.

Theater: What makes us human

Green first fell in love with theater as a CU Boulder student in the late '60s. Though she initially started as an art major, her world transformed after she volunteered to take notes for a faculty director during a theater class her freshman year. That led to several assistant directing opportunities, and from there, the magic of theater drew her in and never let go.

Enamored with theater's backstage and managerial elements, Green continued building her passion for the art and graduated from CU in 1970 with her bachelor's degree in theater and communications. Later, she received her master's degree in theater from Kent State University and established herself as a stage and business manager for theaters across her home state of Ohio.

When she reflects on her education, Green credits her theater courses for her confidence. "I'm not afraid to speak to people," Green said. "Every kid should have a theater class."

Green is one of CU Boulder's largest arts donors to date, having previously established the Roe Green Theatre Artist Residency Program and the theater department's **first endowed faculty chair**.

Outside of CU, she has given gifts to name the Roe Green Center for the School of Theatre and Dance at Kent State University. She also funds the **Roe Green Traveling Masters Program**, a national education program on the craft of stage writing produced by the New York City-based Dramatists Guild Foundation.

Green continues to support CU Boulder and other theater programs around the country because of her strong belief in the power of storytelling. “Theater and the performing arts make us human,” she said. “This is how we pass on what we know.”

Investing in innovation

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, some things may have changed about the way live theater was delivered—but the dreams of talented young people never stopped. With her gift, Green is celebrating those dreams in this new era for the performing arts.

The largest portion of Green’s gift, \$2 million, will support an acoustic overhaul of the current University Theatre space. Built in 1904, the theater building was originally constructed as the campus library and helped define the historic Norlin Quadrangle.

With the last major renovation over 30 years ago, once-new elements of the theater’s architecture and equipment are now out of date. New structures and equipment will allow for better acoustic performance and noise control, creating a more immersive audience experience.

“I like to joke that it’s not a renovation but a Roe-novation,” said Erika Randall, chair of the Department of Theatre & Dance. “The Roe Green Theatre will house world-class theater and dance, and will be a transformative space for generations of students who are deeply invested in transforming the arts and refining their

creativity. We are deeply grateful for Roe and believe that her passion for the arts will forever spark future student learning.”

The architect selected for the renovation, **Architectural Workshop**, is a Denver-based firm that emphasizes a team approach to its design. Their work previously has been honored for excellence in historic renovation, including in performing arts venues.

“In addition to a performing venue, the Roe Green Theatre is also a teaching laboratory,” said Coleman. “Students will experiment in this state-of-the-art space with the acoustic properties of the human voice and sound design.”

Green’s gift will also establish a \$1.5 million endowed scholarship fund for theater students, providing them with financial support for their education—whether as performers, stage managers, lighting designers, directors or other supporting roles. Additionally, it will create a \$1 million endowed fund to support longer-term renovations, ongoing maintenance and enhancements to the Roe Green Theatre.

Another \$500,000 from Green’s gift will endow innovative “launch” programming designed to propel senior theater students to the next stage in their career. As part of this program, students will travel to cities like New York or Los Angeles for professional auditions, showcases, festivals or conferences that will help them land career opportunities post-graduation.

“We are so excited to add the Roe Green Launch Program to our suite of professional orientation courses and activities,” said Coleman. “Our goal is for theater students to create a business plan before they graduate so that, when they leave us, these alumni are self-employed artists with a strategy to achieve their goals.”

Climate Cabaret

A cabaret of short plays and songs on climate

Arranged by Ben Stasny

Devised by our directors and cast

Sept. 24-25, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, 2 p.m.

University Theatre, University Theatre Building

Artistic Director

Ben Stasny

Directors

Beth Osnes

Chip Persons

Ashlyn Barnett

Sarah Fahmy

Kenya Fashaw

Jools Gilson

Choreographer

Caroline Butcher

Music Director

Kelly Bidstrup Graham

Stage Manager

Kelsea Sibold

Assistant Stage Managers

Grace Burner

Hannah Iverson

The Climate Cabaret is a joint production between the CU Boulder Department of Theatre & Dance and Climate Change Theatre Action 2021 in New York City.

Please note: This production contains strobe light effects, loud sound effects, as well as adult language some may find offensive.

Cast in alphabetical order

Dalanda Baldé	Mikayla Jassem	Adam Schuh
Cameron Coffey	Adrian Knappertz	Chevez Smith
Brittny Daboll	Ana Manica	Jude Stivers
Sophia Davis	Joan McEnhill	Jacob Stock
Michelle Diller	Tilly Musser	Casey Walsh
Tanis Gonzales	Asha Romeo	
Jo Hoagland	Maija Pieper	

Act one

- 1.1** *All of Us Were Born in the Crisis*
By David Finnegan
- 1.1a** Opening Song: *Enacting Climate*
Written by Beth Osnes
Composition by Rubin Hochhauser
Arranged by Milo Lewon
- 1.2** *So Beautiful Today, So Sunny*
By Marcus Youssef
- 1.2a** *What's Climate Got to Do With It?*
Parody of *What's Love Got to Do with It?*
Adapted by Beth Osnes
- 1.3** *Moo! Be Quiet! Lambchop's Secret Mission to Steal Every Cow in the World*
By Alister Emerson

1.3a *Candelaria*

Written by Beth Osnes

Composition by Rubin Hochhauser

A heartfelt song about childhood respiratory illness due to black soot in the home from cooking with open fire. The climate solution addressed by this song is Clean Burning Cookstoves. To access an accessible description of this climate solution for youth as well as this song and other performance-based activities on this climate solution, go to enactingclimate.org.

1.4 *Consultation*

By Dylan Van Den Berg

1.4a *Grandma Fridge Cools Off*

By Beth Osnes

The climate solution addressed by this skit is Improved Refrigerants. To access an accessible description of this solution for youth as well as this skit and other performance-based activities on this climate solution, go to enactingclimate.org.

1.5 *Love Out of the Ruins*

By Zoe Svendsen

1.5a *Wind Turbines Are Beautiful*

Skit written by Beth Osnes

Song “Can You Feel the Love Tonight?”

Parodied by Beth Osnes

Arranged by Milo Lewon

The climate solution addressed by this skit is Wind Energy. To access an accessible description of this solution for youth as well as this skit and other performance-based activities on this climate solution, go to enactingclimate.org.

Act two

2.1 *Listen to Vanessa Nakate*

By Aleya Kassam

2.1a *Further Out of Reach*

Written by Beth Osnes

Composition by Rubin Hochhauser

This is a song about a young girl in a refugee camp who has to search for wood for the family cooking fire. Excessive need for biofuel in highly populated camps can cause deforestation that impacts the environment and the lives of young women. The climate solution addressed by this song is Health & Education and Forest Restoration. To access an accessible description of this solution for youth as well as this song and other performance-based activities on this climate solution, go to enactingclimate.org.

2.2 *Mentoring Session #4*

By Peterson Toscano

2.2a *Reduce Your Food Waste*

Written by Beth Osnes

Arranged by Milo Lewon

This is an up-"beat" song for reducing food waste. The climate solution addressed by this song is Reduce Food Waste. To access an accessible description of this solution for youth as well as this song and other performance-based activities on this climate solution, go to enactingclimate.org.

2.3 *Ranger*

By Yvette Nolan

2.3a *Recycled Toilet Paper*

Devised by Uli Miller, Ting Lester, Beth Osnes, Sarah Fahmy and SPEAK group of young women

The climate solution addressed by this skit and song is Tropical Forests. To access an accessible description of this solution for youth as well as this skit and song and other performance-based activities on climate solutions, go to enactingclimate.org.

2.4 *Us In The Past*

By Nathan Ellis

2.4a *Enacting Climate* (Reprise)

Program notes

Artistic Director's note

The Climate Cabaret is a wholly communal production through partnerships with Climate Change Theatre Action, SPEAK, Inside the Greenhouse and many dedicated artists and activists. The individual shows that make up *The Climate Cabaret* are meant to provide a unique and embodied look at the climate crisis from myriad points of view. Research shows that those who bear the brunt of climate devastation are too often those who have contributed the least to its acceleration. It is the job of climate communicators to help lift those voices. I view theatre as a way to inspire ethical action on climate change. By coming together as a community and speaking truth to this existential crisis, we have the opportunity to inspire change at the local, national and international level.

As the artistic director, I conceptualized this show but I felt it was necessary to have others lend their individual, lived experiences to the stories being told. We were able to assemble a dynamic directing team who helped bring this show to life and I am indebted to their contributions. In addition to my role as artistic director, I directed one piece in particular, *Mentoring Session #4*. This show contains the usage of the word “faggot”. As a director, I was at a loss with how I would tackle a word that has such a long and harmful history.

But as I continued thinking about it and after some important conversations with collaborators and friends, I fell deeply in love with this show. As a queer person, I see it as my duty to claim a safe space for my queer-identifying family and allies. This particular show, through a climate lens, shows how to interrogate the history of a word by using compassion and curiosity. If you, my dear audience member, walk away with any reactions to *The Climate Cabaret*, I hope they are ones of compassion and curiosity.

Dramaturg's note

Welcome to the *Climate Cabaret*! Tonight, you'll see nine short plays commissioned by Climate Change Theatre Action 2021, as well as skits and songs developed by Beth Osnes in collaboration with CU Boulder students and local young people.

Climate Change Theatre Action (CCTA) was founded in 2015 by Elaine Ávila, Chantal Bilodeau, Roberta Levitow, and Caridad Svich. It has evolved into a biennial collaboration between The Arctic Cycle and the Toronto-based Centre for Sustainable Practice in the Arts. Every other year, 50 professional playwrights from around the world are commissioned to write five-minute plays about an aspect of the climate crisis. This year, the prompt for the playwrights was “Envisioning a Global Green New Deal.”

CCTA is designed to coincide with the UN Conference of the Parties (COP), which monitors and reviews international progress on climate change. This year, COP 26 will take place in Glasgow from October 31 to November 12.

The writers and artists of *Climate Cabaret* invite us to imagine a bright future: one of green energy and thriving communities, one of courage and hope. We hope you'll join us in imagining this future—and then help us get there.

Personnel

Nathan Ellis

Nathan Ellis is from the UK and is based between London and Berlin. He was a member of the Royal Court Invitation Writers' Supergroup 2018-19 led by Alice Birch and Ali McDowall. His plays include *No One Is Coming to Save You* (published by Oberon) and *work.txt*. In 2020 his play *Super High Resolution* was shortlisted for the Verity Bargate Award. (*Us In The Past*)

Alister Emerson

Alister Emerson (New Zealand) is a playwright and the Artistic Director of Duck Bunny Theatre—a small but feisty theatre company using satirical humour to comment on the absurdity of corporate stupidity, greed, and corruption. His recent plays include *The Fridge*, *Six Polar Bears Fell Out of the Sky This Morning* and *Ed Sheeran Tastes Like Chicken*, a play about the plight of the endangered Maui's Dolphins which debuted at the Nelson Fringe Festival and was shortlisted for the New Zealand Playmarket Plays for the Young. (*Moo! Be Quiet! Lambchop's Secret Mission to Steal Every Cow in the World*)

David Finnigan

David Finnigan is a writer, theatre-maker from Ngunawal country. David works with earth scientists to produce theatre about climate and global change. He has written plays including *Kill Climate Deniers* and *You're Safe Til 2024*. David is a Fellow of the Churchill Foundation, a member of science-theatre ensemble Boho and an associate of the Sipat Lawin Ensemble. Find him at davidfinnigan.substack.com. (*all of us were born in the crisis*)

Aleya Kassam

Aleya Kassam is a Kenyan feminist, storyteller, writer and performer whose work has been published and performed around the world. She is widely experimental; from page to stage, screen to speaker, micro fiction to memory poems, docu theatre to participatory filmmaking—she loves to play with how people experience story. As the 'A' from The LAM Sisterhood, she fills the world with stories for African women to feel seen, heard and beloved, like the award-winning *Brazen Edition*. (*Listen to Vanessa Nakate*)

Yvette Nolan

Yvette Nolan (Algonquin) is a playwright, director and dramaturg. Her works include the play *The Unplugging*, the dance-opera *Bearing*, the libretto *Shawnadithit* and *Breathing Space* for CCTA. She co-created, with Joel Bernbaum and Lancelot Knight, the verbatim play *Reasonable Doubt*, about relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan. From 2003-2011, she served as Artistic Director of Native Earth Performing Arts. Her book, *Medicine Shows*, about Indigenous performance in Canada was published by Playwrights Canada Press in 2015. (*Ranger*)

Zoë Svendsen

Zoë Svendsen (UK) directs the performing arts company METIS, making participatory performances exploring contemporary political subjects, working with a wide range of collaborators, and produced by Artsadmin. Zoë is an associate artist at Cambridge Junction and the New Wolsey Theatre, and has worked as dramaturg at the Young Vic, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company, and lectures on dramaturgy at the University of Cambridge. Zoë's roots are migratory: Welsh, Danish, Australian and Italian. (*Love Out of the Ruins*)

Peterson Toscano

Peterson Toscano is a U.S.-born performance artist, Bible scholar and queer rights activist. He currently lives in Pretoria, South Africa, with his husband Glen Retief. Peterson produces multiple podcasts including Citizens Climate Radio and Bubble&Squeak. His one-person on-line performances include *OK Zoomer!* and *A Queer Response to Climate Change—What Would Walt Whitman Do?* His film, *Transfigurations—Transgressing Gender in the Bible*, explores the stories of gender non-conforming Bible characters. (*Mentoring Session #4*)

Dylan Van Den Berg

Dylan Van Den Berg is an Aboriginal Australian playwright descendent from the Palawa people of Tasmania. His work deals with Black/Coloniser relationships through a culturally hybrid practice. For his work, Dylan has received the Griffin

Award for New Australian Writing and was shortlisted for the Patrick White Playwrights Award. He studied drama at the Australian National University and the State University of New York. (*Consultation*)

Marcus Youssef and Seth Klein

Marcus Youssef's fifteen or so plays have been produced in multiple languages in more than 20 countries across North America, Asia and Europe. Seth Klein is a public policy researcher. He was founding director of the BC office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) and is now Team Lead of the Climate Emergency Unit (a project of the David Suzuki Institute). Marcus and Seth are both based in Vancouver/Unceded Coast Salish Territory, and live four blocks from each other, near Commercial Drive. (*So Beautiful Today, So Sunny*)

Beth Osnes

Beth Osnes, professor of Theatre at the University of Colorado Boulder, is co-founder of **Inside the Greenhouse**, an interdisciplinary project on the University of Colorado Boulder campus for creative climate communication (with Max Boykoff, Rebecca Safran and Phaedra Pezzullo). Please visit our website for more information about performance-based methods for climate engagement and action ("how to act up" tab at **Inside the Greenhouse**) or check out this recent book by Beth Osnes, *Performance for Resilience: Engaging Youth on Energy and Climate Through Music, Movement, and Theatre* (Palgrave). Please reach out to **Inside the Greenhouse** through Beth Osnes for support and encouragement in using performance-based methods for climate engagement, communication and action at **beth.osnes@colorado.edu**. We are happy to consult or coordinate professional development sessions for schools and organizations.

Inside the Greenhouse is a part of the **Center for Creative Climate Communication and Behavior Change** (C3BC) at CU, which leads interdisciplinary and international research, practice, and policy innovations that transform behavior, culture, and politics to usher in a sustainable and equitable future in which humans and nature flourish.

CU Theatre & Dance Production team

Production Coordinator

Kaylyn Kriaski

Costume Designer

Veronica Dewey

Lighting Designer

Nick Cozzo

Scenic Designer

Bruce Bergner

Assistant Scenic Designer

Connor Robertson

Sound Designer

Sam Morin

Assistant Sound Designer

Issac Sadow

Dramaturg

Sam Collier

Pianist

Milo Lewon

Technical Director

Jordan Feeler

Assistant Technical Director

Adam Garb

Costume Shop Manager

Ted Stark

Lighting Supervisor

Jonathan Spencer

Production Electrician

Cooper Braun-Enos

Light Board Operator

Nick Galvez

Sound Board Operator

Wes Halloran

A2

Stephanie Talder

Deck Crew

Matthias Bolon

Ethan Robinson

Follow Spot Operators

Katie Kramer

Caleb Wang

Dressers

Alida Kress

Katherine Marting

COSTUMES

Costume Shop production

assistants: Mari Beazley, Nawledge Brewington Brooks, Kaylyn, Buehler, Grace Burner, Noah Carlson, Celeste Fenton, Payton Godlewski, Maddy Goldberg, Caitlin Johnston, Alida Kress, Carly Peterson, Emily Ray. **Practicum students:** Casey Caplin, Natalie Connelly, Rodrigo Gallardo, Jo Hoagland, Kyle Lawrence, Maya Owens

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 Houston, Isabella Jones, Mimi Kuntz, Maya Owens, Hayley Parnell, Emily Ray, Taylor Rivet, Connor Robertson, Stephanie Talder. **Lighting Practicum students:** Matthias Bolon, Casey Caplin, Peri Cooper, Nick Cozzo, Claudia Davis, Adam Garb, Victoria Harbison, Clara Hoppe, McKenzie James, Kyle Lawrence, Emily Ray

DANCE PRODUCTION

Technical crew: Sam Blagg, Stephanie Castro-Rivera, Nick Cozzo, Xaalan Dolence, Rachel Fields, Devin Garza, Ruth Goldenberg, Maddie Grove, Sam Morin, Anna Pillot. **Dance Practicum:** Katie Carothers, Cassidy Clark, Dara Dawson, Alaska Ellis, McKenna Foote, Maddie Grove, Devon Ostheimer

CU ★ PRESENTS

Theatre events: Fall 2021



Gruesome Playground Injuries

A play by Rajiv Joseph

Sept. 17-19, 2021

[Learn more](#)



Climate Cabaret

A cabaret of short plays and songs on climate

Sept. 24-Oct. 3, 2021

[Learn more](#)



Kaidan+

Something strange and spectral

Oct. 29-Nov. 7, 2021

[Learn more](#)



on Display

An original devised piece

Nov. 12-14, 2021

[Learn more](#)

CU ★ PRESENTS

Dance events: Fall 2021



Dancing on the Edge of Cinema

The Sans Souci Festival

Sept. 24-25, 2021

[Learn more](#)



[un]WRAP

Emerging Global Citizenship in Transcultural Fusion Dance

Oct. 8-10, 2021

[Learn more](#)



Breaking on The Glass Cypher

An MFA dance concert

Nov. 5-7, 2021

[Learn more](#)



FRESH

Fall 2021

Dec. 3-4, 2021

[Learn more](#)



Now more than ever,
your support matters.

CU Presents inspires thousands of arts patrons of all ages every year. Your support helps support the people and activities of our performing arts programs.

Give online to CU Boulder
Theatre & Dance

OR

Call to make a gift
303-492-3054

Personnel

As of Sept. 10, 2021

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES: DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

Department Chair & Director of Dance Erika Randall	Technical Director Jordan Feeler	Business Manager Meghan Perea	Costume Shopper Clara Hoppe
Associate Chair & Director of Theatre Kevin Rich	Associate Technical Director Stephen Balgooyen	Program Coordinator Stacy Norwood	Dance Costume Coordinator Sarah Napier
Associate Chair of Dance Helanius Wilkins	Master Electrician Cooper Braun-Enos	Graduate Program Assistant Patricia Paige	Dance Events Coordinator James Nguyen
Production Coordinator Kaylyn Kriaski	Music/Accompanist Coordinator for Dance Jesse Manno	Administrative Assistant Ciera Barrow	Dance Video Recording/Archivist Christy Mitchell
Director of Dance Production Kate Bashore	Assistant to the Director of Dance Production Anna Pillot	Academic Advisor Jessica Baron	Front of House Manager Xaalan Dolance
Costume Production Director Ted Stark	Assistant to the Costume Production Director Veronica Dewey	Costume Rental/Stock Manager Jo Hoagland	
		Costume Shop Bookkeeper Natalie Connelly	

CU PRESENTS

Executive Director Joan McLean Braun	Publications Specialist Sabrina Green	Box Office Services Coordinator Adrienne Havelka
Marketing and PR Director Laima Haley	Communications Assistant, College of Music MarieFaith Lane	Lead Box Office Assistant Alex Herbert
Operations Director Andrew Metzroth	Editorial Communications Assistant Sam Bradfield	Box Office Assistants Macy Crow Jenna Christine Skylar Finch Morgan Ochs Lily Valdez
Director of Communications, College of Music Sabine Kortals Stein	Marketing Communications Assistant Emma St. Lawrence	
Assistant Director of Marketing Daniel Leonard	Video Producers Ashwini Anupindi Vanessa Cornejo Jacqueline Sandstedt	
Assistant Director of Public Relations Becca Vaclavik	Box Office Manager Christin Rayanne	
House Manager Rojana Savoye		