

The Department of Theatre and Dance presents

Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors

a new play by Jeff Talbott
directed by Wes Grantom

April 18–22, 2018
L. Howard Fox Theatre



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts + Cultural Programming

Department of Theatre and Dance
Randy Mugleston, Chair

Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors

by **Jeff Talbott**

Directed by **Wes Grantom**
Set Designers **Christen Donlon, Emily Frank**
Costume Designer **Ariana Papin-Tarquini**
Lighting Designer **Nick Hawrylko**
Sound Designer **Abigail Martin**
Production Stage Manager **Victoria Darr**

Cast (in order of speaking):

Nick	Thomas Short
Serena	Mary Grace Sumner
MacKenzie.....	Natalie Roman
Yasmine	Brooke Garfinkel
Franklin	Brian Sedita
Cassie	Anna Klein
Dexter	Johnny Kavanagh
Trip	Owen Dachisen
Foster	Matthew Martinez
Libby	Sarah Gagarin
Christina.....	Eden Tayar
Dar	Kira Player

Time and Place

October, the last available room on campus.

Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors is presented as a part of the New Works Initiative (NWI) and made possible through the generous support of Holly and Robert Gregory.

The NWI brings together established and emerging playwrights, composers, choreographers, theater-makers, and directors with MSU theater students to explore adventurous theatrical works.

Duration: 90 minutes, no intermission.

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

Playwright's Note

“But man is known to be a selfish as well as a social being.”

—*James Madison*

Production Staff

Production Manager **Peter J. Davis**
Production Associate **Cyndi Kumor**
Production Office Assistant **Danielle Pransky**
Literary Manager **Andi Stover**
Scenic Supervisor **Erhard Rom**
Technical Director **Ben Merrick**
Assistant Technical Director **Daniel Graham**

Draftsman/Master Carpenter **Dominick Pinto**
Scenic Charge **Katie Woodward**
Props Supervisor **Alison Merrick**
Costume Supervisor **Debra Otte**
Costume Shop Supervisor **Judith Evans**
Assistant Costume Shop Supervisor **Jeanette Aultz**
Drapers **Tilly Adams, Amanda Phillips-Balingit, Katie Pippin**
Wardrobe Mentor **Stephanie Spangler**
Lighting Supervisor **Jorge Arroyo**
Production Master Electricians **Elaine Wong, Daniel Huston**
Sound Supervisor **Scott O'Brien**
Stage Management Supervisor **Mysti Stay**

Staff for Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors

Assistant Costume Designer **Christina Gillespie**
Assistant Lighting Designer **Nicole Belenski**
Assistant Sound Designer **Laurie Pavero**
Assistant Stage Managers **Katie Miller, Lauren Winston**
Props Master **Madison Sawula**
Light Board Operator **Jessica Schedlbauer**
Sound Board Operator (A1) **Kristina Twarkusky**
Student Scenic Charge **Christopher Erbe**
Wardrobe Head **Michele Corregio**
Wardrobe Crew **Penelope Fossa, Jackie Nese**

NWI Committee 2017–2018

Heather Benton
Mark Hardy
Maxine Steinman
Andi Stover

Production Biographies

Jeff Talbott (Playwright) has written the plays *The Submission* (MCC Theater, NYC; Laurents/Hatcher Award [inaugural recipient], Outer Critics Circle John Gassner Award for New American Play), *The Gravedigger's Lullaby* (TACT, NYC), and *i* (Pioneer Theatre Company). Other plays include *Three Rules for the Dragon* (2017 O'Neill Finalist, workshops—Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, Colt Coeur, and Premiere Stages), *A Public Education* (2015 O'Neill finalist; workshops—Pioneer Theatre, TACT), *How to Build a City* (workshops—TACT, Route 66), *Elliot* (readings—Crowded Outlet, MCC Theater), and *All The Stars in the Midnight Sky* (workshops/readings—MCC, TACT). His musicals (with composer Will Van Dyke) include *Imagine Harry* (NAMT 2015, 2017 O'Neill Finalist), *Wintersong* (2016 Goodspeed Johnny Mercer Colony, 2017 NAMT Finalist), *Seven Broken Hearts* (2017 Rhinebeck Writers Retreat), and *The Circle* (commissioned by Grove Entertainment and Barbara Whitman Productions). Talbott holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama. www.jefftalbott.com

Wes Grantom (Director) is thrilled to be working with Jeff Talbott again after working on his plays *A Public Education*, *How to Build a City*, *Three Rules for the Dragon*, and *i*. Recent directing credits include *beep boop* by Richard Saudek at Ars Nova, *A Comedy of Tenors* by Ken Ludwig at Pioneer Theatre Company, *The Older Brother's Almanac* by Richard Thieriot at the Edinburgh Fringe, *Toxic Avenger: The Musical* by David Bryan and Joe DiPietro at Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, *Lone Star Spirits* by Josh Tobiessen with Crowded Outlet, *Eager to Lose* by Matthew-Lee Erlbach at Ars Nova, *The Steadfast* by Mat Smart, and *Mine* by Bekah Brunstetter for Slant Theatre Project. Grantom has a number of Broadway credits as resident and associate director, working alongside James Lapine, Emma Rice, John Rando, Anthony Page, and Rufus Norris. He is a recipient of multiple Drama League Fellowships, a member of Lincoln Center Directors Lab, a graduate of the University of Evansville, and the artistic director of Crowded Outlet, based in Queens.

Christen Donlon (Set Designer) is a junior working towards her BFA in Theatre with a concentration in production/design focusing in scenic design, painting, and props.

This is her first set design. Other recent MSU credits include being hair and makeup designer for *Company* and props master for *Carrie the musical*.

Emily Frank (Set Designer) is a junior Theatre Production/Design major at MSU, concentrating in scenic and sound design. In the past she was assistant scenic designer on *West Side Story* and *Carrie the musical*. In addition, she designed the playbill cover for *Carrie the musical*. She was scenic charge for last year's production of *Punk Rock* and co-scenic charge for this year's production of *Twelfth Night*. Frank looks forward to her summer position as a scenic artist at Utah Shakespeare Festival.

Ariana Papin-Tarquini (Costume Designer) is a junior Costume and Sound Design major. In the past, she has been a costume and sound designer for *Works-a-Foot*, sound designer on *Michigan Murders*, and assistant costume designer on *Punk Rock* and *Mad Forest*. In the fall, she will be the costume designer on MSU's production of *The Full Monty*.

Nick Hawrylko (Lighting Designer) is a graduating senior at MSU. He is thrilled to be involved in another production with the New Works Initiative! Recent credits include *Michigan Murders* (lighting design), *Carrie the musical* (assistant lighting design), and *Mad Forest* (master electrician) as well as design for various dance pieces.

Abigail Martin (Sound Designer) is a senior working toward a BFA in Theatre Production/Design with a concentration in sound design. In addition to sound design, she has worked in various areas such as management, projections design, and scenic painting. Martin has spent her summers working with the Public Theater's Under the Radar Festival and Shakespeare in the Park series (New York, NY), New York Classical Theatre (New York, NY), and the Adirondack Theatre Festival (Glens Falls, NY). Past MSU sound design credits include *Carrie the musical* and *West Side Story*.

Victoria Darr (Production Stage Manager) is a sophomore in MSU's Theatre Production/Design BFA major, with a concentration in stage management. Her previous productions include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *West Side Story*, *Michigan Murders*, and *Twelfth Night*, all as one of the assistant stage managers. This is her first time as production stage manager at MSU.

Cast Biographies

Owen Dachisen (Trip) is a senior BFA Acting major at MSU. He was part of the New Works Initiative program once before in his freshman year and found it to be eye opening and rewarding. With graduation coming in May, he is happy to be a part of it again with a diverse, collaborative, and brilliant cast and crew surrounding him.

Sarah Gagarin (Libby) is a sophomore in the Acting program at MSU. Previous credits include *Twelfth Night* and *Theatre on the Move*. She is also a member of the Devised Theatre Project of the Americas.

Brooke Garfinkel (Yasmine) is a senior BFA Acting major. Past MSU credits include *Pride and Prejudice* (Elizabeth), *The Winter's Tale* (Perdita), *Misalliance* (Hypatia), *Breaking the Cycle* (Company), and *#revolution* (Company). Having worked on both the east and west coasts as an actress and teaching artist, she is ready to take on the field but is delighted to end her time here at MSU with this powerful piece. brookegarfinkel.com

Johnny Kavanagh (Dexter) is a senior in the BFA Acting program. You may recognize him from his roles in *Misalliance*, the Dirty 9, or perhaps his career as a stand-up comic. Kavanagh could not have picked a better production to close his college career on or a better group of people to get to work with on it. Enjoy the show!

Anna Klein (Cassie) is a junior BFA Acting major and is thrilled to be a part of *Civics and Humanities for Non-Majors*. She has most recently been seen at MSU in *Twelfth Night*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, and the Dirty 9. Last summer, she was in *The Tempest* with the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company Apprenticeship. Klein is incredibly grateful for the opportunities MSU has offered her.

Matthew Martinez (Foster) is a junior in the BFA Acting program. During his sophomore year, he was nominated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Irene Ryan award for his performance as the Witness in *Iphigenia at Aulis 2.0*. He made his directorial debut in the fall when he co-directed *Dog Sees God*. Film credits include Tom in *A Touch of Identity* on YouTube.

Kira Player (Dar) is a BFA Acting junior excited to embark on her second experience in the New Works Initiative. She has previously been seen on MSU's stages in *Punk Rock* (Tanya), *JON* (Kimberly), and *99 Ways to F*%k a Swan* (Lucrezia). This process has been a singularly unique one that has invigorated her to look forward to developing new plays professionally one day soon.

Natalie Roman (Mackenzie) is a junior BFA Acting major. Past credits include Theatre on the Move, the Dirty 9, and *The Vagina Monologues*. Roman recently traveled to Santiago, Chile, as a member of the Devised Theatre Project of the Americas. She is extremely grateful to be part of this amazing ensemble!

Brian Sedita (Franklin) is a BFA Acting major. MSU credits include *Michigan Murders*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, and *Breaking the Cycle*. Other credits include *The Blank Page* at Luna Stage Company and *Princess K.I.M.* at Mile Square Theatre.
briansedita.wixsite.com/bsedita @briansedita

Thomas Short (Nick) is a sophomore Musical Theatre major. This is the first play he has had the privilege to be part of at MSU. He recently appeared in *A White House Cantata*, *Company*, and *Songs for a New World* at MSU.

Mary Grace Sumner (Serena) is a senior BFA Acting major originally from San Diego, CA. She recently traveled to Santiago, Chile, for the Devised Theater Project of the Americas. Recent MSU credits include Marnie in *The Drunken City*, Elmire in *Tartuffe*, and Beatrice in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. She is also a member of the Dirty 9 late-night comedy group. She is very grateful to be a part of this ensemble as her last project before graduating in May.

Eden Tayar (Christina) is a senior in MSU's Theatre Production/Design major, focusing in costume and scenic design. Costume design credits include *Anything Goes*, *Iphigenia at Aulis*, and *99 Ways to F*%k a Swan* for MSU and *And Then They Came For Me* at Normal Ave. Productions. She was scenic designer on *Punk Rock* at MSU. Tayar is excited to end her undergraduate career by flexing her acting muscle again! edentayar.com

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