

UALBANY THEATRE
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC & THEATRE
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
PRESENTS

NEW WORKS/NEW WAYS
Student Written Plays

MOTHPAN
by Maddy Rolon

POSTMORTEM
(or How to Live after Death)
by Ava O'Dea

Lighting Design
Andi Lyons

Costume Design
Reneé M. Bell

Video Design
MJ Johnson

Sound Design
Emmett Costello

Technical Direction
Steve Michalek

Stage Management
Ashley Lewis

Directed by
Jacqueline Springfield

*This production is made possible with generous support from
The John Orser '55 Theatrical Endowment*

The Company

MOTHMAN

Emmie.....Samantha Rose Wilson
Jerick.....Ryan Buchholz
Teddy.....Ayele Brockington

Understudies

Emmie.....Zaya Koegel
Jerick/Teddy.....Damien Kritzer

POSTMORTEM

Winnie.....Alexa Rose Passante
Neev.....Natasha Daniels
Travis.....Zachary MonteLeon
Quinn.....Isabel Sanchez

Understudy

Neev/Quinn/Winnie.....Samantha Rose Wilson

FIND YOUR LIGHT..

Become a Theatre Major and
train with working professionals in our
five-theatre performing arts center.

Areas of study include Acting, Design,
Directing, Playwriting, Theatre
Literature/Criticism, Musical Theatre,
Stage Management, Theatre
Technology and more!

Visit our website for more information.

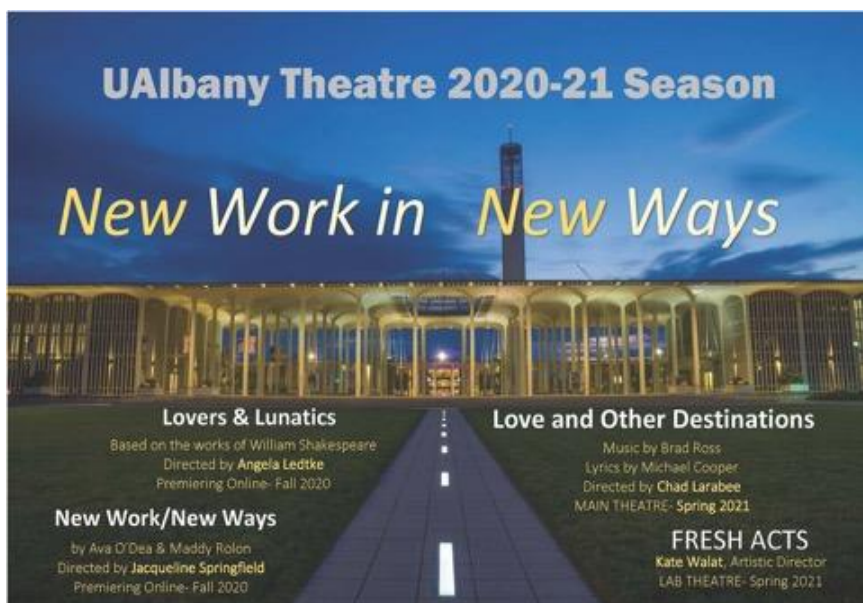
www.Albany.edu/Theatre



Director's Notes

New Works/New Ways—there couldn't be a more appropriate title for these two plays written by UAlbany alums Maddy Rolon and Ava O'Dea. Both of these pieces dwell in the supernatural, life after death (in both the literal and figurative sense), coping with loss, the volatility of young romantic relationships, and the kind of self-reckoning that is unavoidable as we come of age. In *Mothman*, three friends arrive in a cemetery at midnight to search for a creature from urban legend, but what they find is much more than what they've bargained for. In *Postmortem*, the lead character discovers that life after death is not the "heavenly" place she imagined it to be – there's real work involved, and hard lessons to be learned. In addition to performing brand new work, we are approaching these plays in a new way. Our current situation necessitates that we find ways to connect, learn, and be entertained remotely. While there are certainly challenges presented by creating a virtual performance, if we allow ourselves to be optimistic, we may find that we can be more connected, and even more creative than ever before. After all, necessity is the mother of invention.

~ JS



UAlbany Theatre 2020-21 Season

New Work in New Ways

Lovers & Lunatics Based on the works of William Shakespeare Directed by Angela Ledtke Premiering Online- Fall 2020	Love and Other Destinations Music by Brad Ross Lyrics by Michael Cooper Directed by Chad Larabee MAIN THEATRE- Spring 2021
New Work/New Ways by Ava O'Dea & Maddy Rolon Directed by Jacqueline Springfield Premiering Online- Fall 2020	FRESH ACTS Kate Walat , Artistic Director LAB THEATRE- Spring 2021

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager.....STEVE MICHALEK
Scene Shop Supervisor.....JOHN KNAPP
Costume Shop Manager.....RENEÉ M. BELL
Assistant Stage Manager.....LIV LARSON
Marketing.....JOSEPH OLAWOYE
Assistant Video Designer.....NICOLE MOLINSKI
Video Consultant.....EAMONN FARRELL
Sound Operator.....EMMETT COSTELLO
Scene Shop TAs.....EMMETT COSTELLO
JADE IMPARATO
Carpentry Crew.....JADE IMPARATO
KHAAL VOLNY
MICHAEL GLANTZIS
Costume Shop TA.....EMILY ENGLISH
House Manager.....VANESSA MILLER
Scene Shop Lab Students.....JADE MCGOVERN
DEANNA GREENBLATT
JULIEN GONGORA
BEN SINKORA
RACHEL KLEIN
LINFENG LI
JACK BESTERMAN
ADRIE SAUNDERS
CAMILLE GORDON
DYLAN NEIL
DEANNA ROBINSON
CHEYENNE TAYLOR
Costume Shop Lab Students.....ARIANNA AMAN
SANAA CHAUVET
LEXY FELDSCHUCH
CHRISTIAN GODETTE
BENISHA PIERRE LOUIS

WHO'S WHO

AYELE BROCKINGTON (Teddy) is playing Theodore Prince in *Mothman*. He is a junior Theatre/History major and has played Caesar in *Our Country's Good*. He hopes you enjoy the show.

RYAN BUCHHOLZ (Jerick) is a senior, majoring in Theatre and minoring in Musical Theatre. Ryan has additionally appeared in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snug), *Spring Awakening* (Hanschen), *Six Scenes in a Theatre*, *Godspell* (Swing). He is president of UAlbany Theatre Council and has transitioned the organization to online theatre by making his directorial debut with *A Night of Dungeons, Dragons, and Death*. Ryan is excited to see how virtual theatre evolves. He plans to work in the original show *Love and Other Destinations* in the spring.

NATASHA DANIELS (Neev) is a senior who majors in Theatre. She was previously in *Intimate Apparel* as Ester's understudy, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as Mustardseed, and *FRESH ACTS* 2018-20 as an actor and playwright. She is very excited to get to work on *Postmortem* again. This piece has evolved so much from the first time she was in the cast and she's glad to revisit it. She wants to thank her family and friends for the support. She wants to thank the cast and crew for their hard work.

ZAYA KOEGEL (Understudy, *Mothman*) is the understudy for Emmie in *Mothman*. Zaya is a first-year Human Development major in the Honor's College with a deep passion for theatre. This is their first production with the University but they have been involved with productions throughout high school, with their most notable roles being Flute (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Miss Hannigan (*Annie*), Ursula (*The Little Mermaid*), and Morticia (*The Addams Family*).

DAMIEN KRITZER (Understudy, *Mothman*) is intending to major in psychology and is the understudy for Teddy and Jerick in this production.

ZACH MONTELEON (Travis) Zach is a Theatre major and Musical Theatre minor and is excited to make his debut with the Theatre Department playing Travis in *Postmortem*. Zach has previously been seen in the UAlbany Musical Theatre Association's productions of *Spring Awakening* (Moritz Stiefel), *Mamma Mia* (Bill Austin), and *Into the Woods* (Narrator). He is excited to also be a

part of the Theatre Department's production of *Love and Other Destinations* this coming spring. Zach is the lead singer and guitarist for the alt-rock band Cloud 18 and is excited to record the band's debut album later this fall.

SAMMY ROSE WILSON (Emmie; understudy for *Postmortem*) is a Junior Theatre Major/ Musical Theatre Minor. Previous credits with UAlbany Theatre include Penny Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Callie in *Six Scenes in a Theater*, Dabby in *Our Country's Good*, and Anna Maria in *Godspell*. She would like to thank the crew and cast for making this experience so unique and thrilling. She is so excited for the audience to see this show and hear its important message. She hopes everyone watching knows they are not alone and are so loved. Thank you for watching!

AVA O'DEA (Playwright: *Postmortem*) is a recent UAlbany graduate with a degree in English and Theatre studies. She's beyond excited to work with the UAlbany Theatre Program again. *Postmortem* has been featured at UAlbany's FRESH ACTS festival, as well as Capital Repertory Theatre's *Next Act!* play festival. She has also had two other plays, *\$15,000* and *Bennie Aiken Is A Big, Fat Virgin* feature in FRESH ACTS. She'd like to thank her loved ones for all their support.

ALEXA ROSE PASSANTE (Winnie) is a senior Theatre major double minoring in Musical Theatre and Psychology. Some past credits: Peaseblossom (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Tribe Member/Dancer (*Hair*), Stephanie (*Godspell*), Fraulein Schneider (*Cabaret*), Martha (*Heathers*), Rosie (*Mamma Mia*), Madame Thenardier (*Les Miserables*). She has also been involved with the Saratoga Shakespeare PTP as well as virtual online productions throughout the summer. Alexa is very excited to be playing this sarcastic, outspoken, and witty character! She wants to thank her family and friends for their constant love and support and thank all involved in the making of this production. AlexaRosePassante.com

MADDY ROLON (Playwright: *Mothman*) is an actor, playwright, and fight director. Past plays workshopped at UA include *Tomorrow*, *A Spirited Proposal*, and *What Fools*. Past roles include Oberon in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Sunny Jacobs in *The Exonerated* and Mrs. Van Buren in *Intimate Apparel* at UA, and Charles The Wrestler in *As You Like It* with Saratoga Shakespeare Company.

They have a passion for classical theatre, gender imaginative casting, lesbian representation, and dark comedy. When not making theatre, Maddy can be found re-watching 20-year-old episodes of *The Simpsons* or making lattes. Maddy is an Actors' Equity Membership Candidate. maddyrolon.com

ISABEL SANCHEZ (Quinn) is a freshman and is thrilled to be performing in her first production at UAlbany in her role as Quinn. She plans to do a double major, one of them in Theatre. She has performed in numerous plays and musical theatre productions such as *The Wicked Witch (The Wizard of Oz)* and *Clarice (The Servant of Two Masters)*, to name a few. Isabel also studied film acting as part of the National High School Institute program at Northwestern University. Isabel would like to thank the director, cast, and crew for their hard work and dedication. Congrats to all!

RENEÉ M. BELL (Costume Designer) is the Resident Costume Designer, Costume Shop Manager, and Lecturer at the University at Albany-SUNY. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor at Marietta College, a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, and the Craft/Stock Supervisor at the University of Texas, Austin. Reneé is a freelance Costumer/Wardrobe Lead with Celebrity Cruise Lines where she works on over 20 production shows including her favorites, *Colors of Life*, *Rock City, Life*, *Motown*, and *Broken Strings*. She continues to design shows for educational and professional theatres including Weathervane Playhouse, University of Iowa, Transport Group, Barrington Stage Company, Manhattan Theatre Source, Riverside Theatre, and Shakespeare by the River. She designed costumes for the independent feature film, *Splatter: Love, Honor, Paintball*. Reneé has worked as a Milliner on such Broadway shows as *Mary Poppins*, *The Color Purple*, *The Lion King* and *The Pajama Game*. Reneé holds a BA in Design and Technical Production from Western Michigan University and an MFA in Design from the University of Iowa. www.reneembell.com

EMMETT COSTELLO (Sound Designer) is a junior Human Development and Psychology major with a Theatre minor. He has been involved in the UAlbany productions of *Midsummer Night's Dream* as the Sound Board Operator, and *Lovers and Lunatics* as the Sound Designer. He would like to thank his friends, family, and all the members of the cast and crew for their support.

EAMONN FARRELL (Video Consultant) is a Virginia-based theater maker and video designer who investigates how innovative technologies can support and elevate the work of live performers. With his company, Anonymous Ensemble, he has created dozens of original, media-infused shows, installations, and live webcasts in New York City and around the world. Other design credits include: Sarah Michelson, Mabou Mines, Big Dance Theater, B3 Dance (Bessie Nomination), LA Dance, The LA Phil, Parsons Dance, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Portland Center Stage. Eamonn has taught at Princeton, City College of New York, and UVA. www.eamonnsgarden.com

MJ JOHNSON (Video Designer) is a junior at UAlbany, pursuing majors in Theatre and History. This is their second time working in a UAlbany production, having previously worked on the sound team for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* after transferring in Spring of 2020. They have found the challenges of a fully online production exciting and have already learned so many new things. They would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work in pioneering a brand new experience!

LIV LARSON (Assistant Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre Major/Musical Theatre minor. Previous UAlbany Theatre production credits include ushering for *A Midsummers Night Dream* last spring. She's excited to make her UAlbany acting debut in *Love and Other Destinations* in the spring.

ASHLEY LEWIS (Stage Manager) is a senior Theatre major with a Creative Writing minor. Previous productions she has worked on have been *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the University at Albany, *ROE* at the WAM Theatre, and *The Niceties* with The Black Theatre Troupe of Upstate NY.

ANDI LYONS (Lighting Designer) is Resident Lighting Designer, Head of Design and Technology, Professor of Theatre, and former Chair of the Theatre Department at UAlbany. Andi has designed over three hundred productions for a variety of professional and academic venues over the past decades. A few favorites include *Ann* for both the Dallas Theater Center and Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.; WAM Theatre's *Emilie: La Marquise Du Châtelet Defends Her Life Tonight*; Capital Repertory Theatre's *The Seahorse* and *Looking Over the President's Shoulder*; La MaMa

E.T.C.'s *Sole Sisters*; Theater for the New City's *Distant Music*; Tri-Cities Opera's *Tosca*; Stageworks/Hudson's *Imagining Madoff*, and Des Moines Metro Opera's *Street Scene* and *Il Trovatore*. Andi is an active member of USITT, the association for design, production, and technology professionals in the entertainment industry, and currently serves on USITT's Board of Directors as Vice-President for Members, Sections, and Chapters. Professor Lyons has received both the Chancellor's and the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and for Excellence in Academic Service. Andi is a proud Fellow of USITT, and a member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. She earned her MFA from Yale University's School of Drama.

STEVE MICHALEK (Production Manager) has held myriad positions at regional theatres across the Northeast, including: Merrimack Repertory Theatre (carpenter/welder), Shakespeare & Company (lighting designer, master electrician, ATD), the Ogunquit Playhouse (TD), Connecticut Repertory Theatre (TD), the Richard B. Fisher Center at Bard College (TD), and the Chester Theatre Company (TD). He has also acted on area stages including the Mac-Haydn Theatre and the Ghent Playhouse. He has previously taught at Union College (LD/TD), Southern Connecticut State (PM/TD), the University of Connecticut, and at the New Hampton School. He has a B.A. in English from the University at Albany and an M.F.A. in Technical Direction from the University of Connecticut. He is currently Production Manager/Technical Director and Lecturer at the University at Albany.

NICOLE MOLINSKI (Assistant Video Designer) is excited to be on the tech side of theater this time around! Recent productions include *Mamma Mia* (Sophie), *Peter Pan* (Mrs. Darling, Indian, Grown-Up Wendy), *Cabaret* (Lulu), *Rumors* (Cassie), *Chicago* (Liz), *Terms of Endearment* (Patsy, Doris, Nurse). Nicole also enjoys acting in murder mystery dinner theatre and film. She is following her dream and studying Musical Theatre at the University at Albany. She owns Molinski Photography with her husband, Michael, in Hudson, NY.

JACQUELINE SPRINGFIELD (she/her/hers; Director) is an actor, director and educator. Her directing credits include American Musical and Dramatic Academy, Middle Tennessee State University, The Tank Theatre and Darkhorse Theatre (Nashville,

TN). Her teaching credits include: The Lee Strasberg Institute of Film and Theatre, New York Film Academy, Brooklyn College, Wildwind Performance Lab at Texas Tech, and The Black Arts Institute at Stella Adler. Jacqueline holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and is a certified Associate Instructor of Fitzmaurice Voicework. She continues to work as a performer in film, television, theatre and voiceover.

**THEATRE PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Theatre Program Director/Producer,
Head of History, Literature & Criticism.....ESZTER SZALCZER
Head of Design and Technology.....ANDI LYONS
Head of Performance.....CHAD LARABEE
Head of Acting.....KIM STAUFFER
Theatre Program SecretaryVERONICA MOTT

THEATRE FACULTY AND STAFF

Professors.....ANDI LYONS
ESZTER SZALCZER
Associate Professor.....KATHRYN WALAT
Full Time Lecturers.....RENEÉ M. BELL
CHAD LARABEE
KIM STAUFFER
STEVE MICHALEK
Instructional Support Associate.....JOHN KNAPP
Adjunct Instructors.....MELISSA HURT
SARA KATZOFF
ANGELA LEDTKE
RACHEL MACKENZIE
TRACY-LIZ MILLER
BHAVESH PATEL
YVONNE PERRY

**MOTHPAN by Maddy Rolon &
POSTMORTEM by Ava O'Dea
were developed in**

FRESH ACTS

Apply to be a part of our Spring 2021 Festival!

We need directors, stage management,
dramaturg/editors and PLAYS:

**FRESH ACTS 2021 will feature play readings live
on Zoom April 7-10 + a manuscript of scripts,
director visions, and playwright interviews.**

**It will also feature a Solo Performance Showcase, with
work from ATHR 203 Crafting Solo Performance
(email Kate Walat if interested).**

Playwrights submit by early-bird deadline **Nov 23** or final
deadline **Feb 5**:

- One-act plays (of varying length) by a single author.
- Please save as a **PDF**, and attach **TWO** copies.
- One copy must have: your name, UAlbany email, phone.
- The other copy must NOT have your name anywhere on it.
- Please name your copies: YourPlayTitle_YourName /
YourPlayTitle_Anon
- Plays are judged anonymously, with final selections by a guest
playwright.
- Send from your UAlbany email to kwalat@albany.edu, subject
FRESH ACTS.
- To submit, you must be a UAlbany student during spring
semester.
- You must be ready to participate in a play development/
rewriting process.

Directors, Stage Management, Dramaturgs/Editor submit by **Nov 23**. Please attach a one-page PDF with:

- Your name, UAlbany email, phone.
- Relevant classes you have taken.
- Experience working on productions at UAlbany.
- Any relevant experience from outside of UAlbany.
- Availability/conflicts (other shows, jobs, etc.) for spring semester.
- Save as a PDF, with your name and director/SM/dramaturg as document name.
- Send from your UAlbany email to kwalat@albany.edu, subject FRESH ACTS.

PLEASE NOTE: You may submit/apply for more than one position. But you can only do one. Please indicate first/second choices. Practicum credit is available.

Selections will be announced during the week of February 22. Play development/artistic meetings begin the week of March 1. You must be available nights/weekends to rehearse March 22 – April 6. Auditions for performers will be held in early March.

Questions/more info, contact Kate Walat: kwalat@albany.edu

SUPPORT UALBANY THEATRE

Thank you for supporting 110 years of live theatre at the University at Albany. The UAlbany Theatre Program has a long, proud history of creating thought-provoking theatre while training the next generation of theatre artists, and we need your help to continue.

We hope you will consider making a donation to the UAlbany Theatre Program to support our productions, student scholarships, and special endowments to ensure we can provide the best training for our talented students for the next 100 years. You will also help cover a portion of the costs of the sets, costumes, lighting, royalties, and other expenses required to produce theatre.

For more information on how you can help, please see:

<https://www.albany.edu/musicandtheatre/theatre-productions>

www.albany.edu/theatre
[www.Facebook.com/UAlbanyTheatre](https://www.facebook.com/UAlbanyTheatre)