



2004-2005

Academic Workshop: The Sixth Act: A New Drama Initiative

This workshop will officially launch The Sixth Act, MCC's new Drama Initiative, so in addition to mocking a rehearsal for Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*, we also will talk about the initiative and its goals. Everyone interested in drama--for personal, political, artistic, and/or pedagogical reasons-- is invited!

Academic Workshop: Mamet, Harassment, and the Stage

The workshop will focus on interdisciplinary approaches to a dramatic text, using David Mamet's provocative, challenging play *Oleanna* as a case study. *Oleanna*, which is widely taught and performed, tells the story of a college student who issues a formal sexual harassment complaint against her college professor. The play is difficult in part because it's difficult to tell which character is the real victim—raising real questions about different forms of power. More than one version of a key scene will be shown and then a group of MCC colleagues from different academic perspectives will offer insight into the text based on their individual backgrounds. The idea is that a single dramatic text can yield multiple readings, and that we all are better equipped to approach a dramatic text when we have a wider understanding of some of these readings.

Academic Workshop: "Unpack My Heart With Words": Using Dramatic Techniques to Understand Shakespeare's Language

This interactive workshop will help students, teachers, and drama enthusiasts use performance to interpret the multiple dimensions of Shakespeare's words.

Academic Workshop: Stagecraft 101: Understanding the Fundamentals of Design

This hands-on workshop will familiarize participants with the language of scenic, sound, lighting, costume, and property design—providing important insight into practical as well as metaphoric applications of the stage. The workshop will feature a fully staged performance of Tennessee Williams' one-act play, *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen*.

2005-2006

Event: "Rochester's Theatre Community."

Representatives from at least nine local theatre companies—including Geva, Shipping Dock, and Blackfriars—will meet with MCC faculty and students to discuss their missions and philosophies, their 2005-2006 seasons, any special opportunities they can offer MCC faculty who bring students to see one of their plays, and any internships or other opportunities they can offer MCC students directly.

Event: Production of The Second Shepherds' Play

Held in conjunction with the MCC music department's annual holiday Madrigal concert, this full production of *The Second Shepherds' Play* will feature a new translation by MCC faculty members Tony Leuzzi and Matt Fox, as well as performances by MCC student and faculty. The production will also be accompanied by production notes that include three contextual essays written by Leuzzi, Fox, and fellow professor, Jeffery Jones.

Academic Workshop: Brecht and Theatre as Catalyst for Social Change

Presented in collaboration with the Holocaust Genocide Studies Project, this workshop will begin by historicizing playwright Bertolt Brecht and unpacking his most fundamental theoretical paradigms, including his difficult “alienation effect.” Then, actors will present the first scene of Brecht's famous anti-capitalist anti-war play *Mother Courage*, employing Brechtian methods.

Finally, members of the Holocaust Genocide Studies Project will open discussion of how to use Brecht and his ideas in a socially charged classroom.

Academic Workshop: The Critic

Theatre practitioners, audience members, and media outlets continue to debate the function of the theatre critic: To what degree does the critic serve a ticket-buying public? To what degree does the theatre critic serve the art? What does it mean to serve one or the other? As scholars and teachers, we hold power through the texts we choose to disseminate to our students and through the methods we use to disseminate these texts. As such, we designate certain poems and stories and plays worthy of study and ensure these texts will continue to be read and discussed. To what degree does the critic have the same power? What does it mean to be a good critic? How can awareness of the role of the critic shape our understanding of theatre? And, given the metaphoric relationship between the critic and the teacher, to what degree can we leave this workshop pondering our own role as disseminators of critical opinion in the classroom?

This workshop will be an old-fashioned roundtable discussion featuring lifelong theatre critic Herb Simpson, retired theatre critic Gene Marino, Burning Barn Theatre Artistic Director Janis Lilly, and retired Bridge Theatre Company Artistic Board Member Jeffery Jones. Conversation promises to be invigorating as well as applicable.

2006-2007

Special Project: Drama on Demand

An ongoing program, Drama on Demand is facilitated by a group of theatre-savvy students who are interested in honing their production skills. Upon request, Drama on Demand will visit the classroom, perform a scene from a script, and, if requested, participate in a discussion of that scene and the ideas that surround it, including the relationship between reading and performing a dramatic text. This pedagogical tool will not only offer theatre students the chance to develop their skills while contributing to curriculum, but also offer English students the chance to engage with a dramatic text in a lively, sophisticated manner—enriching the classroom experience and giving plays the performance for which they were written.

Academic Workshop: Science on Stage

This workshop will be a roundtable discussion using Michael Frayn's award-winning play *Copenhagen* to probe various ways that science and art can inform each other on stage. *Copenhagen* explores the real and imagined encounters between scientists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg around the time quantum physics was used to construct the first atomic bomb. Playwright Michael Frayn writes, "I wanted to suggest with *Copenhagen* that there is some kind of parallel between the indeterminacy of human thinking, and the indeterminacy that Heisenberg introduced into physics with his famous Uncertainty Principle."

Our workshop will begin with MCC students performing a short scene from the play and then move to a conversation catalyzed by panelists who will look at the play from the perspective of physics,

psychology, ethics, stagecraft, and literary art. Participants should leave with a deeper understanding of the scientific, psychological, ethical, and artistic foundation of this exciting play--and with a sense of the provocative questions that underpin any collaboration between the arts and the sciences.

Panelists will include Physics Professors Paul D'Alessandris and John Wadach, Psychology Professor Celia Reaves, Philosophy Professor Matt Hachee, and English Professors Jeffery Jones and Lloyd Milburn.

Event: MCC Night at the Theatre

The Sixth Act is pleased to partner with Geva Theater Center to provide an evening of theatre for MCC faculty, staff, and students. All are welcome to see David Mamet's masterpiece *American Buffalo* and then to participate in a special postshow talkback with actors in the play. In *American Buffalo*, three small-time crooks plot to rob a man of his coin collection and, in the process, compete with one another over their deeply buried needs for attention and respect. Geva describes the play as "an intense ride, savage and funny. An unflinching portrayal of the ethics of business and friendship [with] brilliant, edgy dialogue."

Academic Workshop: Comedy

The workshop will offer a brief introduction to the history of comedy--in particular to some of the ways "comedy" has been defined through the ages and to important questions surrounding comedy's effect on its audience. Then, we will look closely at three key comedic genres--so-called low comedy (farce), so-called high comedy (comedies of ideas or manners and satire), and the Theatre of the Absurd--exploring their theoretical and historic roots, as well as examining and discussing representative scenes: What in the scene is funny (and not funny) and why? How might this humor reinforce or challenge the status quo?

To exemplify low comedy, Drama on Demand students will perform the famous vaudevillian "Niagara Falls" skit, later adapted by Abbot and Costello; to exemplify high comedy, we will show a recorded scene from a live performance of Richard Brindsley Sheridan's 18th-century classic *The School for Scandal*; and to exemplify the Theatre of the Absurd, Professors Jeff Jones and Matt Hachee will perform the final scene from *Waiting for Godot*.

Event: Production of The Love of the Nightingale

In support of National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, The Sixth Act is pleased to announce its upcoming production of Timberlake Wertenbaker's elegant, difficult play *The Love of the Nightingale*.

The Love of the Nightingale retells the Philomele myth in classical Greek style with contemporary infusions. As in Ovid's version, Tereus marries Procne and then rapes Philomele, Procne's younger sister, with devastating consequences. After the play's original production, one London critic wrote that *The Love of the Nightingale* "demonstrates the violence that stems from enforced silence." Another described the play's "classical austerity and great verbal elegance that rare thing, a compelling piece of theatre which may indeed rivet you to your seat."

Directed by MCC instructor Heather Fox, the production draws its cast and designers from the MCC community, both students and faculty members alike.

2007-2008

Event: MCC Night at the Theatre

In partnership with Geva Theatre Center, The Sixth Act is pleased to invite all MCC faculty, staff, and students to attend the Thursday, October 25, production of John Patrick Shanley's Pulitzer Prize winning play *Doubt: A Parable*.

Doubt ostensibly tells the story of a priest accused of child molestation. Evidence abounds on both sides, and whether or not he is in fact guilty in the end is not revealed. As Shanley writes about his play, "Doubt requires more courage than conviction does, and more energy; because conviction is a resting place and doubt is infinite—it is a passionate exercise. You may come out of my play uncertain. You may want to be sure. Look down on that feeling. We've got to learn to live with a full measure of uncertainty. There is no last word. That's the silence under the chatter of our time." Indeed, this provocative play is not so much an exploration of molestation as it is an exploration of doubt itself.

Academic Workshop: The History Play

Using Aeschylus' post-war play *The Persians* as a case study, this workshop will explore the relationship in dramatic literature between recording the historical past and using this historical past as a lens for examining contemporary issues, encouraging participants to develop a more nuanced understanding both of history as an academic discipline and of the tensions specific to theatrical representations of historic periods and events. The workshop will include a short scene from the play, as well as a moderated discussion featuring Professors Maria Brandt (ENG/PHL), Bill Drumright (A/H/P/S), Matt Fox (TRS), Jeffery Jones (ENG/PHL), and Midge Marshall (ENG/PHL).

Academic Workshop: Stage Violence

Using Edward Albee's play *The Zoo Story* as a lens, the workshop will explore some of the contradictory impulses behind staging violent acts in a theatrical performance, encouraging participants to ask difficult questions surrounding the ethical as well as artistic roles that representing physical pain can play on stage.

Event: First Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This annual competition encourages students to write plays for an audience; to provide students with a competitive venue for their scripts; and to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development. The competition culminates in an evening of staged readings of the winning scripts and an awards ceremony honoring the winning playwrights.

2008-2009

Event: MCC Afternoon at the Theatre

The Sixth Act and The Children's Literature Committee are partnering with Rochester Children's Theatre to bring you, your students, and any guests (including children) a special opportunity to see a staged adaptation of Washington Irving's classic tale *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. The play-going event will be supported by a roundtable discussion of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* led by The Children's Literature Committee.

Academic Workshop: The Mask

This workshop will invite participants to explore the history and various functions of using masks in a theatrical performance. This will entail, of course, investigating some of the theoretical applications of masking, more broadly speaking: When and how does the mask conceal? When and how does the mask reveal? To what degree does masking unite participants and spectators in an archetypal rite and to what degree does masking alienate participants and spectators from the specifics of their humanities?

Participants will be exposed to details of the mask-making process; to specific theories and applications of using theatrical masks; to a historical overview (accompanied with handouts) of masks in various dramatic traditions; and to facilitated discussion focusing on performances from Greek drama as well as the more contemporary and experimental work of Eugene O'Neill.

Academic Workshop: African-American Theatre

The Sixth Act is partnering with MCC's Black Student Union to produce "African-American Theatre: An Academic Workshop." Focusing on the work of Willis Richardson, the premiere playwright of the Harlem Renaissance and the first black playwright to produce a non-musical on Broadway, this workshop will invite participants to explore challenges and achievements specific to the development of African-American theatre in the United States. We will take a brief historic look at Richardson's role in developing the "Black Stage Reality" of the Harlem Renaissance, study a scene from his most famous play, and then investigate the larger and more contemporary implications of "performing blackness" both off and on the stage.

Event: Production of Einstein's Dreams

In conjunction with MCC's Honors Institute and a campus visit from physicist and novelist, Alan Lightman, The Sixth Act is pleased to announce its full-scale production of Jeffery Jones' original adaptation of Alan Lightman's award-winning novel *Einstein's Dreams*. According to Catalyst Collaborative at MIT, *Einstein's Dreams* is "a journey-alternately wry and wild, funny and intellectually stimulating, provocative and surprisingly moving." All performances will be followed by discussion and are free and open to the public.

Directed by MCC professor Maria Brandt, the production draws its cast and designers from the MCC community, both students and faculty members alike.

Event: Second Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This annual competition encourages students to write plays for an audience; to provide students with a competitive venue for their scripts; and to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development. The competition culminates in an evening of staged readings of the winning scripts and an awards ceremony honoring the winning playwrights.

2009-2010

Academic Workshop: Eco-Theatre

In collaboration with MCC's Sustainability Group, this workshop will explore ideas surrounding sustainability as expressed on stage.

Event: If All of MCC Read the Same Play

This event will encourage the MCC community to study, view together, and then discuss the ideas and imaginative processes involved both in reading and producing Taylor MacBowyer's short play *The Levee*.

Event: MCC Night at the Theatre

The Sixth Act is pleased to coordinate an outing to Geva Theatre Center's production of Arthur Miller's *The Price*, followed by a conversation about questions the play catalyzes.

Event: Third Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This annual competition encourages students to write plays for an audience; to provide students with a competitive venue for their scripts; and to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development. The competition culminates in an evening of staged readings of the winning scripts and an awards ceremony honoring the winning playwrights.

2010-2011

Event: MCC Night at the Theatre

The Sixth Act is pleased to coordinate an outing to Geva's Hornet's Nest reading of Julie Marie Myer's *Welcome Home, Jenny Sutter*. Geva's Hornet's Nest series features script-in-hand performances of hot-topic plays followed by conversations with community leaders. This particular Hornet's Nest will involve a special collaboration between MCC and The Sixth Act.

Academic Workshop: Theories of Production Design

This workshop will offer insight into the principles addressed by professional scenic, lighting, and costume designers. Audience members will participate in conversation and interactive activities and then will be invited to witness firsthand the transformative potential of professional design on a theatrical production.

Event: Staged Reading of Medicine Show

This staged reading of the 1939 *Medicine Show* will invite audience members to experience the political raucous pageantry of the living-newspaper plays popular in the 1930s. Focusing specifically on public health-care policies, the production will offer a searing glimpse into American social history while provoking debate over health-care issues in America today.

Event: Fourth Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This annual competition encourages students to write plays for an audience; to provide students with a competitive venue for their scripts; and to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development. The competition culminates in an evening of staged readings of the winning scripts and an awards ceremony honoring the winning playwrights.

2011-2012

Academic Workshop: Contemporary Women Playwrights with an Emphasis on Paula Vogel

This workshop will look at the current dialogue surrounding women playwrights in the United States, will survey some of the more important and exciting work being done by contemporary women playwrights, and then will focus on the work of Paula Vogel.

Event: MCC Night at the Theatre

The Sixth Act will work with Geva Theatre Center to provide MCC faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to see *Dracula* together, followed by a post-show discussion with the artists involved in the production.

Event: Visiting Playwright, Paula Vogel

Paula Vogel's *How I Learned to Drive* won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Her other plays include the Obie-award winning *The Baltimore Waltz*, as well as *Hot N Throbbing*, *Desdemona*, *The Mineola Twins*, *The Long Christmas Ride Home*, *And Baby Makes Seven*, and *The Oldest Profession*. Her plays are published as *The Mammary Plays* and *The Baltimore Waltz and Other Plays*. Vogel currently teaches playwriting at Brown University. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts, Liberal Arts, English/Philosophy, and VaPA.

Event: Fifth Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This annual competition encourages students to write plays for an audience; to provide students with a competitive venue for their scripts; and to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development. The competition culminates in an evening of staged readings of the winning scripts and an awards ceremony honoring the winning playwrights.

2012-2013

Academic Workshop: The Sixth Act and Teaching Drama

This workshop will “re-release” The Sixth Act with several goals: to talk about the artistic, cultural, and academic relevance of drama, more broadly; to introduce The Sixth Act’s library resource, website, and revised Drama on Demand program; to discuss other ways The Sixth Act can enrich cross-campus curriculums with theatre-related conversations; and to host representatives from Geva and VaPA as they share ideas for including their current seasons in MCC curriculums.

Event: MCC Night at the Theatre

The Sixth Act will work with Geva Theatre Center to provide MCC faculty, students, and staff the opportunity to see *Freud’s Last Session* together, followed by a post-show discussion with the artists involved in the production.

Event: Visiting Playwright, Molly Smith Metzler

Molly Smith Metzler is the author of *Elemeno Pea* (South Coast Rep, Humana Festival), *Close Up Space* (Manhattan Theatre Club, Susan Smith Blackburn Prize 2012 finalist), *Training Wisteria* (SPF, Cherry Lane Mentor Project), and *Carve*. Her work has been developed by The O’Neill Theatre Center, Ars Nova, Playwrights Horizons, MTC 7@7, South Coast Rep, Chautauqua Theater Company,

Williamstown Theatre Festival, Geva Theatre, hotINK, Tristan Bates Theatre (London), Boston Playwrights Theatre, and many more. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts.

Event: Sixth Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This annual competition encourages students to write plays for an audience; to provide students with a competitive venue for their scripts; and to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development. The competition culminates in an evening of staged readings of the winning scripts and an awards ceremony honoring the winning playwrights.

Project: The Sixth Act Night at VaPA

The Sixth Act will develop curriculum-support materials and post-show talk-backs for VaPA's 2012-2013 productions of *Cabaret* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

2013-2014

Event: Guerilla Theatre

R.G. Davis is generally given credit for founding Guerilla Theatre with the San Francisco Mime Troupe's 1965 unapproved performance of *Il Candelia* in Lafayette Park. Since then, the impulse to perform dramatic pieces in public places, with no apology or warning, has inspired artists nationwide. The Sixth Act will enter this proud tradition during the Fall 2013 semester.

Academic Workshop: Tennessee Williams

This workshop will examine the life and legacy of Tennessee Williams—paying attention to his difficult masterpiece *A Streetcar Named Desire*, which VaPA will produce during the Spring 2014 semester, as well as to some of Williams' other, including lesser-known, works. The goal is to cultivate new interest in this American legend.

Event: Visiting Playwright, Lisa D'Amour

A native of New Orleans, Lisa D'Amour is a playwright and interdisciplinary artist. Her plays have been commissioned and produced by theaters across the country, including The Women's Project, Playwrights' Horizons, Children's Theater Company (Minneapolis), Steppenwolf Theater Company (Chicago), ArtSpot Productions (New Orleans), and the Royal National Theater (London). Her recent play *Detroit*, a dark comedy that follows two suburban couples facing economic uncertainty, was a finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in Drama and the 2011 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize. She is also the recipient of the 2008 Alpert Award for the Arts in Theatre and the 2011 Steinberg Playwright Award. For fifteen years, she has been one-half of the OBIE-Award winning performance duo PearlDamour known both for large-scale performances that mix theatre and installation such as *How to Build a Forest* (premiered at The Kitchen, 2011), a performance in which a simulated forest is assembled and disassembled on stage for over eight hours; and more intimate performances designed for small audiences such as *Bird Eye Blue Print* (2007), created for a set of vacant offices in New York's World Financial Center. PearlDamour is a four-time MAP Fund recipient and a 2009 Creative Capital grantee. Upcoming PearlDamour projects for 2013-14 include *Lost in the Meadow*, a site-specific co-commission from People's Light & Theatre and Longwood Gardens in Malvern, PA, which the audience experiences via headphones; and *Milton*, an immersive piece investigating the sky over five U.S. cities and towns named "Milton." This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts and Liberal Arts.

Event: Seventh Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development, and to offer VaPA acting students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts.

Project: The Sixth Act Night at VaPA

The Sixth Act will develop curriculum-support materials and post-show talk-backs for VaPA's 2013-2014 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

2014-2015

Event: Plays on Film: Death of a Salesman

This event will feature the screening of *Death of a Salesman*, borrowed from The Sixth Act's Library Collection, followed by a conversation about the film, the play, and other library resources The Sixth Act can offer MCC faculty and students.

Event: If All of MCC Read The Whale

This event encourages the MCC community to read, view, and discuss Samuel D. Hunter's provocative new play *The Whale*. *The Whale* features Charlie, an adjunct community-college professor who teaches expository writing over the internet, and the struggles he faces with faith, family, and chronic, life-threatening obesity. As *New York Times* critic Charles Isherwood claims, "Charlie [emerges] a man with great empathy for others who somehow cannot extend the same generosity of spirit to himself." Hunter, the playwright, will visit MCC in the Spring. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts and Liberal Arts.

Event: Visiting Playwright, Samuel D. Hunter

Samuel D. Hunter's plays include *The Whale* (2013 Drama Desk Award, 2013 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Play, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle nominations for Best Play), *A Bright New Boise* (2011 Obie Award for Playwriting, 2011 Drama Desk nomination for Best Play), and his newest plays, *The Few* (The Old Globe, Rattlestick *upcoming*), *A Great Wilderness* (Seattle Repertory Theatre, Williamstown Theater Festival *upcoming*) and *Rest* (South Coast Repertory, Victory Gardens *upcoming*). His plays have been produced by Playwrights Horizons, South Coast Rep, Victory Gardens, Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Denver Center Theatre Company, Clubbed Thumb, Page 73, and elsewhere. Sam is the winner of a 2012 Whiting Writers Award, the 2013 Otis Guernsey New Voices Award, the 2011 Sky Cooper Prize, and the 2008-2009 PONY Fellowship. He has active commissions from LCT3, Steppenwolf, Playwrights Horizons, and MTC/Ars Nova. He is an Ensemble Playwright at Victory Gardens, a Core Member of The Playwrights' Center, a member of Partial Comfort Productions, and was a 2013 resident playwright at Arena Stage. A native of northern Idaho, Sam lives in NYC. He holds degrees in playwriting from NYU, The Iowa Playwrights Workshop, and Juilliard.

Event: Eighth Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts

performed and to receive constructive feedback for future play development, and to offer VaPA acting students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts. This event is co-sponsored by Creative Arts.

Project: The Sixth Act Night at VaPA

The Sixth Act will develop curriculum-support materials and post-show talk-backs for VaPA's 2013-2014 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

2015-2016

Event: Stein Salon

Revisit the heady flights of Modernism! This event will bring together students and faculty from multiple disciplines to explore various aesthetic and scholarly impulses relevant to the modern era. Focusing primarily on the dramatic work of Gertrude Stein, presentations also will look at other art forms to glimpse better the collage-like experimentation underlining much of this stimulating, provocative period in artistic history.

Event: Visiting Playwright, John Cariani

John Cariani is an actor and a playwright. He has appeared on and Off Broadway and in several films and television shows. He's been nominated for a Tony Award. John has done movies with Robert De Niro, Christopher Walken, and Ed Asner. Most people seem to know him from *Law & Order*, where he played Forensics Tech Beck for five seasons. As a playwright, John is best known for his first play, *Almost, Maine*, which premiered at Portland Stage Company in 2004 and opened Off-Broadway in 2006. It has since become one of the most frequently produced plays in the United States and has been translated into a dozen languages. He has two new plays being published this year: *Last Gas* and *Love/Sick*, both of which premiered at Portland Stage. John grew up in Presque Isle, attended Amherst College, and now lives in New York City.

MCC's VaPA Department will perform *Almost Maine* during the Spring 2016 semester.

Event: Ninth Annual Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition and performed at MuCCC on Atlantic Avenue as part of Rochester's Annual College Theatre Festival. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September. This event is sponsored by Creative Arts.

Project: The Sixth Act Night at VaPA

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials and post-production talk-backs for VaPA's 2015-2016 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will resurrect Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program will feature web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.

2016-2017

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on Friday, October 7, to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Lauren Gunderson

[Lauren Gunderson](#) is one of the most produced playwrights in America, the winner of the Lanford Wilson Award and the Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award, a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize and John Gassner Award for Playwriting, and a recipient of the Mellon Foundation's 3-Year Residency with Marin Theatre Co. She studied Southern Literature and Drama at Emory University, and Dramatic Writing at NYU's Tisch School where she was a Reynolds Fellow in Social Entrepreneurship. Her work has been commissioned, produced, and developed at companies across the US including South Coast Rep (*Emilie, Silent Sky*), The Kennedy Center (*The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful And Her Dog!*), The O'Neill, The Denver Center, Berkeley Rep, Shotgun Players, TheatreWorks, Crowded Fire, San Francisco Playhouse, Marin Theatre, Synchronicity, Olney Theatre, Geva, and more. Her work is published at Playscripts (*I and You, Exit, Pursued By A Bear, and Toil And Trouble*), Dramatists (*Silent Sky, Bauer*) and Samuel French (*Emilie*). She is a Playwright in Residence at The Playwrights Foundation, and a proud Dramatists Guild member. She is from Atlanta, GA, and lives in San Francisco. [@LalaTellsAStory](#).

Event: Remembrance Reading

In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, The Sixth Act is collaborating with MCC's HGHRP to participate in the National Jewish Theater Foundation's nationwide Remembrance Readings. The Sixth Act will join hundreds of organizations around the country by selecting one short play from the NTJF catalogue of nearly 600 plays, presenting that play as a staged reading on Yom HaShoah, and then inviting audience members into a conversation about the lessons of the Holocaust and the relevance of those lessons in today's world.

Event: Tenth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition and performed at MuCCC on Atlantic Avenue as part of Rochester's Annual College Theatre Festival. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials and post-production talk-backs for both VaPA's and Geva's 2016-2017 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

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2017-2018

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

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Event: Visiting Playwright: Judith Thompson

Judith Thompson is a playwright, director, actor, and artistic director of RARE theatre. She is the author of some fifteen published plays, many translated and produced around the world. She has won the Governor General's Award, the Walter Carsen Performing Arts Award, the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the Dora Award, and the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award. The mandate of RARE theatre is to stage communities seldom heard and rarely seen.

The first production, *rare*, was performed by actors with Down Syndrome, while the second, *Borne*, was co-written with actors who use wheelchairs, having both quadriplegia and paraplegia. The most recent production, *Wildfire*, was written by Judith Thompson for performers with Down Syndrome, addressing the horror of recently closed institutions for those with differences. Judith is also a Professor of Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph.

Event: Eleventh Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

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2018-2019

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on Friday, September 28, to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Mary Kathryn Nagle

Mary Kathryn Nagle is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program and also is a partner at Pipestem Law, P.C., where she works to protect tribal sovereignty and the inherent right of Indian Nations to protect their women and children from domestic violence and sexual assault. Nagle has authored numerous briefs in federal appellate courts, including the United States Supreme Court, and is a frequent speaker at law schools and symposia across the country. As playwright, Nagle is an alumn of the 2012 PUBLIC THEATER Emerging Writers Group, where she developed her play *Manahatta* in PUBLIC STUDIO (May 2014). Productions include *Miss Lead* (Amerinda, 59E59, January 2014), *Fairly Traceable* (Native Voices at the Autry, March 2017), *Sovereignty* (Arena Stage), and *Manahatta* (Oregon Shakespeare Festival). In 2019, the Rose Theater (Omaha, NE) will produce her new play *Return to Niobrara*, and Portland Center Stage will produce the world premiere of *Mnisose*.

Event: Twelfth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials and post-production talk-backs for both VaPA's and Geva's 2018-2019 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will continue to develop Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program now features web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.

2019-2020

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on Friday, October 4, to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Nathan Yunkerberg

Nathan Yunkerberg is a Brooklyn-based playwright. His plays include Esai's Table, The Son of Dawn, Pousada Azul, Orchids and Polka Dots, Seven Pools of Lebanon, and Isosceles. Nathan's work has been developed or featured by The Cherry Lane Theatre (2017 Mentor Project with Stephen Adly Guirgis), Roundabout Theatre Company, The Playwrights' Center, JAG Productions, Crowded Fire Theater, Lorraine Hansberry Theater, The Lark, The Fire This Time Festival, 48 Hours in Harlem, Climate Change Theatre Action, The National Black Theatre, The August Wilson Red Door Project, The Bushwick Starr, and BBC Radio Afternoon Drama. Nathan is one of seven black playwrights commissioned by The New Black Fest for HANDS UP: 7 Playwrights, 7 Testaments which was published by Samuel French. Awards and honors: The 2016 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (Semifinalist), Ken Davenport 10-Minute Play Festival (Winner), 2019 Djerassi Resident Artist, and 2019 Headlands Center for the Arts Artist in Residence.

Event: Thirteenth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials and post-production talk-backs for both VaPA's and Geva's 2019-2020 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will continue to develop Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program now features web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.

2020-2021

Event: Daystar/Rosalie Jones

Through The Sixth Act, Daystar/Rosalie Jones will introduce viewers to the storytelling potentials of the Anishinaabe Medicine Wheel, also called the Medicine Circle, or the Circle of Life. The Wheel embodies a depth of teachings from the Anishinaabe (or Ojibwe) people of North America. In its basic elements, this symbol is used as a teaching tool through which to embody the cycles of life, the elements of nature, and our responsibilities to self and the world around us.

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on Friday, October 9, to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Stephanie Leary

Stephanie Leary's plays include *An Apple a Day*, *A Polished Slavery*, *Unleavened*, *Relay*, and *Spinach: The Often Overlooked and Usually Underappreciated Nutritional Value of Like at First Sight*. Stephanie's work has been produced and/or developed by Syracuse Stage, the Sankofa Theatre Festival, and the International Performing Arts for Youth. Her play, *Commanding Space: The Rise of Annie Easley and the Centaur Rocket*, was recently awarded a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Science and Technology Project. Stephanie was born and raised in Rochester, New York, where she still lives. She is a graduate of Monroe Community College and SUNY Brockport and obtained her M.F.A. in playwriting from Goddard College.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Hilary Bettis

Hilary Bettis is a critically-acclaimed playwright whose work has been developed and produced all over the country, including Roundabout Theatre, New Georges, The Sol Project, Miami New Drama, Studio Theatre, Alley Theatre, New York Theatre Workshop, La Jolla Playhouse, amongst others. In television Bettis won the 2019 Writer's Guild of America Award for her work on the Emmy Award winning FX series "The Americans." She wrote on the Hulu miniseries, "The Dropout," and Amazon's "Rodeo Queens." She's an alumni of the Sundance Institute Episodic TV Lab, and is developing projects for AMC, Hulu, and PatMa. She's a graduate of The Juilliard School.

Event: Fourteenth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials and post-production talk-backs for both VaPA's and Geva's 2019-2020 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will continue to develop Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program now features web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.

2021-2022

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on Friday, October 15, to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Donna Hoke

Donna Hoke's work has been seen in 47 states and on five continents. Plays include *Brilliant Works of Art* (Kilroys List), *Elevator Girl* (O'Neill, Princess Grace, and Austin Film Festival finalist), *Safe* (winner of the Todd McNerney, Naatak, and Great Gay Play and Musical Contests), and *Teach* (Gulfshore New Works winner). She has been nominated for the Primus, Blackburn, and Laura Pels prizes, and is a three-time winner of the Emanuel Fried Award for Outstanding New Play (*Seeds, Sons & Lovers, Once in My Lifetime*). She has also received an Individual Artist Award from the New York State Council on the Arts to develop *Hearts of Stone*, and, in its final three years, Artvoice named her Buffalo's Best Writer—the only woman to ever receive the designation. Donna served the Dramatists Guild Council since 2012, is an ensemble playwright at Road Less Traveled Productions, blogger, moderator of the 13,000+-member Official Playwrights of Facebook, *New York Times*-published crossword puzzle constructor; children's and trivia book author; and founder/co-curator of *BUA Takes 10: GLBT Short Stories*. Speaking engagements include Citywrights, Kenyon Playwrights Conference, the Dramatists Guild National Conference, Chicago Dramatists, the Austin Film Festival, and a live Dramatists Guild webinar. Her commentary has been seen on #2amt, howlround, *The Dramatist*, the Official Playwrights of Facebook, *Workshopping the New Play* (Applause, 2017), and at [Donna Hoke's website \(donnaHoke.com\)](http://DonnaHoke.com).

Event: Fifteenth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition. Scripts will be accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials and post-production talk-backs for both VaPA's and Geva's 2019-2020 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will continue to develop Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program now features web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.

2022-2023

Event: Bake-Off / 24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on Friday, October 20, to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Harrison David Rivers

Harrison David Rivers is an award-winning playwright, librettist and television writer based in St. Paul, Minnesota. His plays include *The Bandaged Place* (Roundabout, New York Stage & Film), *We Are Continuous* (Geva Theatre Center, Williamstown Theatre Center), *This Bitter Earth* (Seattle Public, TheatreWorks Hartford, InterAct, The Road, Richmond Triangle Players, Theater Alliance, About Face, Penumbra, New Conservatory Theatre Center), *Where Storms Are Born* (Williamstown Theatre Festival), *When Last We Flew* (Out Front, Real Live Arts, TheatreLAB, Diversionary, NYFringe), and the musicals *Five Points* with Douglas Lyons and Ethan Pakchar, *We Shall Someday* with Ted Shen, and *I Put a Spell on You* with Nubya Garcia. His television credits include *One of Us Is Lying* (Peacock) and *The Nevers* (HBO). Harrison is a recipient of McKnight, Jerome and Van Lier Fellowships, residencies with the Bogliasco Foundation, Siena Art Institute, the Hermitage and Duke University, and commissions from Roundabout, Transport Group, Penumbra, TheatreWorks Hartford, Geva Theatre Center and La Jolla, among others. He sits on the Board of Directors of The Movement Theatre Company and the Playwrights' Center.

Event: Sixteenth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition. Scripts are accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials for both VaPA's and Geva's 2022-2023 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will continue to develop Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program now features web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.

2023-2024

Event: Bake-Off/24-Hour Play

MCC students will meet in The Forum at 7 PM on a Friday evening to begin the process of creating a series of short plays from nothing. 24 hours later, those plays will be ready for an audience. Come laugh with us, cry with us, and help us celebrate the magic of co-curricular, interdisciplinary collaboration at its most immediate.

Event: Visiting Playwright: Garrett Zuercher

Garrett Zuercher (he/him) is a profoundly Deaf theater and film artist and award-winning playwright who holds an MFA from Hunter College, class of 2022. Based in New York City, he serves as the founding artistic director of Deaf Broadway, for which he is currently producing an all-Deaf, all-ASL staging of Stephen Sondheim's Company at Lincoln Center in summer of 2023, in which he will also star. Recently, he was awarded a residency commission from The Shed to create an original narrative piece about the lives and work of Deaf artists, which will be produced on the main stage in the summer of 2024. His most recent short film, "Flirting (With Possibilities)," continues to garner honors at film festivals around the world. Dedicated to bringing authentic Deaf voices to the mainstream, he continues to advocate for awareness and representation within the theatre and film industries. For more, please visit [Garrett Zuercher's website \(www.garettzuercher.com\)](http://www.garettzuercher.com).

Event: Seventeenth Annual Sixth Act Student Playwriting Competition

This competition encourages MCC students to write plays for an audience, to provide MCC students a competitive venue for their scripts, to offer winning playwrights the opportunity to see their scripts performed as staged readings with an eye towards future play development, and to offer VaPA students the opportunity to participate in the new-play-development process. Three winning playwrights receive cash prizes. One winning playwright also will have his/her play submitted to a nationwide competition. Scripts are accepted for consideration beginning in September.

Project: Sixth Act Nights at VaPA and Geva

The Sixth Act will continue to develop curriculum-support materials for both VaPA's and Geva's 2023-2024 season in an effort to encourage faculty across MCC to teach these plays in their individual courses and to enrich this process for all involved.

Project: Drama on Demand Video Library

The Sixth Act also will continue to develop Drama on Demand, now as a Video Library. This popular program now features web-based, filmed versions of VaPA students performing scenes from published plays so these scenes can be used as co-curricular tools across campus.