DRAMATURG NOTES: "THIS RANDOM WORLD" by Ariana Burns

ne of the things that immediately struck me about Steven Dietz's script is how much we miss. Our narrow focus can make us oblivious to the roles we play in others' lives. It only takes a slight shift of view to bring different things to light or see old things as if new.

Director David Lee-Painter remarked: "None of the characters ever know what they've missed... but we who watch the play feel the lost heat and warmth of those almost-collisions, and yearn after it." Some of the missed connections in the play are caused by dumb luck rather than intentional action.

In "This Random World." the characters challenge themselves. How involved are they with each other? With the world? What does it mean to be successful? What, if any, difference is there between being successful and leading a good life? Are they truly alive?

Pursuing these guestions. Dietz has crafted a compelling story and at the same time has dismantled it by denying scenes where we expect certain characters to meet. This puts us in and out of the story at the same time. It permits us to study the world he has created and iuxtapose it with our

own. These acts of participation and reflection were what Dietz considers to be theater's most profound gifts.

Maximum Learning Experience

Life itself is a journey of wisdom, exploration, and understanding. Our staging of "This Random World" followed this pattern and through the process we found experiences of mindfulness and grace. We allowed ourselves to be more curious

about the layers within Dietz's work and how they spoke to us. These discoveries we are now

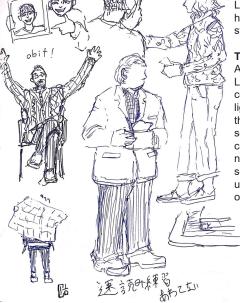


The majority of the roles also had a "shadow" cast which increased the learning opportunities and the potential teachers in the rehearsal hall at any given moment. Peers exchanged knowledge, becoming both "lead" and "understudy." Alumni were invited as guest artists to expand on different approaches to theatre craft. And Professor Forrest Sears, who led the U of I Theatre

> Arts acting program for over 30 years and was Lee-Painter's mentor, has returned to the U of I stage for this production.

The Beauty of Curiosity At our first rehearsal,

Lee-Painter told the company, "[Curiosity] can lighten vour step....even though we might miss some connections, we can still have epiphanies." It is that process of self-discovery that gives us a place hold in our own random world.



About the Playwright

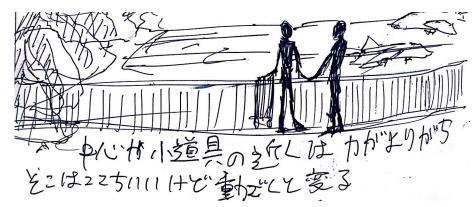
Steven Dietz is the recipient of multiple awards and perhaps the most ubiquitous contemporary American playwright whose name you may never have heard. He was has almost 50 plays and adaptations to his credit with his work being produced by regional theaters around the nation. This year saw him on The American Theatre's "The Top 20 Most-Produced Playwrights of the 2019-20 Season." His work has been produced and translated into several languages. He teaches MFA Playwriting and Directing at UT Austin as well as master classes around the country.





This Random World

by Steven Dietz directed by David Lee-Painter and Daniel L. Haley Forge Theater | Moscow, Idaho | October 18-27, 2019



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF CLASS

↑ **/**elcome to the Forge Theater and a new year of stellar performances from our incomparable Department of Theatre Arts.

With a play about connections, allow me this opportunity to introduce the talented Robert Caisley, as the new department chair, and to welcome new faculty members Sarah Campbell and Michael Brandt to the college.

As dean, let me say how amazing it is to work with such talented students and colleagues whose creative vision and energy coalesce to make the theater come alive. Surely this is the case for today's performance — Steven Dietz's "This Random World" — which asks us to contemplate parallel experiences and missed connections in our journey of life.

David Lee Painter and Daniel L. Haley deserve abundant praise for their directorial artistry and collaborative work. Theatre cannot exist without community, and so I thank you all for your continued patronage and support. As the French say before performances: bon spectacle!

Sean Quinlan, Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

↑ Te are honored to have you join us for VV Steven Dietz's "This Random World." For us, this beautiful, thought-provoking play is about connection - the ones we make and the ones we miss. The characters all are seeking a "quality of mercy."





"I quess I don't let them in. I don't let them in.

I haven't made room. For people. Humans. Humans with hearts. And lips. I should make room."

A bit about our process - it has been unusual and oh-so-rewarding. The title understudy is inadequate in this instance. Each character has two actors assigned to them - we call them "Moons and Stars" - you'll see both tonight, the Moons with lines and the Stars in unabashed-world-building-ensemble-support. In process, both actors rehearsed the speaking and ensemble roles. The Stars had their performance with lines during our technical rehearsal process. It has been an educational symbiotic-sharing and learning.

And to further bind us together we rehearsed without carrying scripts in hands - ever. The Stars and Moons "shadowed" their counterpart whispering lines into the speaker's ears requiring authentic listening and connection from moment-one. It was a beautiful dance in the rehearsal hall – one we'll treasure always. A quality of mercy for us all.

We're so blessed to have two much-loved guest artists in "This Random World" - U of I Alumnus/LCSC Professor and love-of-David's-life Achali, and a treasured mentor, Forrest Sears who taught in our department for 31 years - last appearing on a U of I stage in 1977. We are truly enriched by their presence.

Thank you so very much for joining us and supporting the arts!

David Lee-Painter and Daniel L. Haley



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by

David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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ARTISTIC TEAM BIOS CONTINUED

KATHARINE SONAS (Assistant Scenic Designer) is a senior performance BFA, but recently discovered an interest in scenic design. This is her first-time exploring theatrical design. She thanks her friends and family for their support, and her grandfather for pushing her to explore design.

JARED SORENSEN (Properties Master) (He/Him/His) is a third year MFA design student from Portland, Oregon. U of I credits include scenic design for "True West," "A Midwinter Night's Dream" and "Present Laughter." Recently Jared designed both "Faceless" and "West Side Story" at Sixth Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa, CA, and was a technical director for the Contemporary American Theatre Festival's 2019 season in Shepherdstown, WV.

GINGER SORENSEN (Costume Director) Prior to joining U of I, Ginger taught costume construction at University of Wyoming for two years, was costume director at Louisiana State University for six years and spent several years as a freelance costume draper in NYC and around the country.

KT TURNER (Stage Manager) is a first year MFA directing candidate originally from Hammond, LA. KT honors her history-making grandmother, Alma P. Mitchell, who encouraged little "Moody" to dream.

EMMA VON TILL (Assistant Costume Designer) is from Spirit Lake, Idaho. She is a third year BFA candidate in performance. She would like to honor her family for their support and motivation and her boyfriend for his patience and love.

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ARTISTIC TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

GABRIELLE ANDERSON (Assistant Stage Manager) After graduating from Coeur d'Alene, Gabrielle moved to Moscow where she is earning her BFA in Theatre Arts with an emphasis in stage management. She thanks her family, sorority sisters at Kappa Delta, and the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity for their support.

ALBERTO ARIZMENDI (Assistant to the Directors) is a first-year student at the University of Idaho majoring in Theatre Arts. He remembers Keegan Felton, a former student at U of I. Alberto had the honor to act alongside Keegan and received an award in his honor.

QUINN BARTON (Assistant Scenic Designer) is from Trout Lake, Washington and a junior at the University of Idaho majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in theatre technology with an emphasis in scenic design.

MICHAEL BRANDT (Technical Director) is an assistant professor of Theatre Arts at U of I, where he oversees all aspects of the production phase for plays at U of I as well as teaching classes in scenic technology. Prior to joining U of I, Michael served as the technical director/designer and theater manager for the Theatre Arts department at Bellevue College, Washington and the technical director and designer, for Bellevue Youth Theatre.

ARIANA BURNS (Dramaturg) is a writer, researcher, and UI alumna '91, '12. Her play, "The Three Keys of Captain Hellfire" premiered on the Hartung stage last spring. Ariana honors her grandmother/caregiver: Nola Day Sylvester. Ten years was not enough.

DANIEL L. HALEY (Co-Director) The "L" stands for Leonard, a middle name Daniel is proud to share with his paternal grandfather Frank. In Haley family lore, Frank is a larger-than-life figure who was always prepared to say something great. For his legacy of strength, generosity, and humor, Daniel holds in remembrance Frank Leonard Haley.

MASON HAMMER (Sound Engineer) is a junior in virtual technology and design and is from Caldwell, Idaho. "This Random World" is his first sound production. Mason wants to thank Andre Szarmach for convincing him to take theater and get involved. He is grateful for this opportunity!

GRACE HECKENDORN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore social sciences secondary education major from Eagle, and is so excited to be working with the Theatre Department this semester. Grace is honoring her aunt Karla Mae Jacobus for her sparkle and belief in the serendipitous.

SCOTT HILTON (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a first year BFA with an emphasis in lighting design. He wishes to thank Conner Wayne Brown for pushing him back into the world of theater.

DAVID LEE-PAINTER (Co-Director) David's passion is sharing life with beloved Nancy/Achali, awaiting the first two grandbabies arriving SOON & teaching passionate, curious students. He honors his treasured aunt: Colleen Sue McMahon (U of I '57) – she changed my life forever.

CHIAN-ANN LU (Lighting Designer) is an international theatre designer from Taipei, Taiwan. He is an Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts with a focus in lighting. Website link: Chianannlu.com

KENDRA PHILLIPS (Master Electrician) is a second year MFA with a dramatic writing focus. She's originally from the Seattle area and earned her bachelors from Pacific Lutheran University. Past U of I shows she's worked on are "A Midwinter Night's Dream" and "Present Laughter."

BREANNE SERVOSS COOK (Costume Designer) feels honored to have costume designed for "This Random World." She anticipates graduation in May with a BFA in Theatre Arts and a BSFCS in Apparel, Textiles & Design.



About our Ticket Prices

The costs of producing live theatre increase every year. While the materials we use – the lumber, Styrofoam, paint, plastics, fabric, screws and nails — have all crept up in price over the past decade, we have tried to keep our ticket prices the same. However, with a reduction in the department's operating expenses this year, we decided to increase our prices by 5% for regular plays, and by a little bit more for musicals due to significantly higher royalties to license those works. This will allow us to continue with the same number of high-quality productions that directly benefit our theatre students and audience.

We hope you understand and feel that the Department of Theatre Arts' plays still represent great value for the money. Our department and students appreciate your continued support of live theatre on the Palouse.

Your Gift Makes A Dramatic Difference

Our theatre students are bright, successful and want to change the world, one story at a time. Help them become the next generation of fearless artists with a tax-deductible gift to the U of I Theatre Arts program or to one of our many theater scholarships. Make a secure, online gift today by visiting uidaho.edu/give.

Thank you!



Beth Ward MIRANDA BARRON
Tim Ward ANDRE SZARMACH

 Claire
 KATY SOKOL

 Gary
 BRYCE GOWEY

 The Gentleman
 FORREST SEARS**

 Rhonda
 OLIVIA LONGIN

ENSEMBLE

Understudy Beth GRACE MCGREEVY
Understudy Tim EMIR DZAFEROVIC
Understudy Bernadette TAYLOR TELFORD
Understudy Claire KYMBER DODD
Understudy Gary PAYTON EDMONDS
Understudy Rhonda SAVANNAH JUDD



Scenic Designer & Prop Master......JARED SORENSEN* Costume Designer......BREANNE SERVOSS COOK Lighting Designer......CHIAN-ANN LU Stage Manager.....KT TURNER* Technical Director.......MICHAEL BRANDT Master Electrician KENDRA PHILLIPS* & SCOTT HILTON Dramaturg......ARIANA BURNS** Costume Director......GINGER SORENSEN Muse & Illustrator...... TELIHA KOKUBA Assistant Scenic Designers......KATHARINE SONAS & QUINN BARTON Assistant Costume Designer..... EMMA VON TILL Assistant Lighting Designer.....SCOTT HILTON

PRODUCTION CREW

Stitchers

CARSON SALINE*, JUSTIN GREAVES, RHYS COLSON, ERIN HENKHAUS, ALEXA LAMERS, KATY SOKOL, ISABELLA BERMINGHAM, AMY HUCK, ANTHONY JONES, BREANNE SERVOSS COOK, AND SULEYMA ALAMILLO CAROLINA FRIAS & THEATRE 104 STUDENTS

Construction

ELI BAKER, QUINN BARTON, PAYTON EDMONDS, KAYTLYN HARRIS, SCOTT HILTON, JORDAN PETERSON, BLAKE PRESNELL, TAYLOR TELFORD, VICTORIA ZENNER, ZAK FURGASON, NICHOLAS HANSEN, TELIHA KOKUBA, KALYSSA MONTOYA, KATHRYN SOKOL, NOAH WETZEL, ANDRE SZARMACH

RUN CREW

Light board operator	NOAH WETZEL
Sound board operator	ZAK FURGASON
Grip	ELIBAKER
Wardrobe	CHRISTINA LEBLANC, EMMA PRICE, BREA DACE

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

MIRANDA BARRON (Beth) from Emmett ID, is a graduating BFA and secondary education major at the U of I. Her greatest loves in life are telling stories and empowering young people.

ANDRE SZARMACH (Tim) is a 5th year student from Concord, CA, graduating with a BFA in performance. He would like to give his complete love to his sister Natalia Marie Szarmach, for always inspiring him to improve himself. Enjoy the show!

NANCY/ACHALI LEE-PAINTER (Scottie) loves growing wild beautiful things - live stories onstage with open-hearted humans and in the garden w/bestie, David, awaiting first grandchildren. Achali celebrates her posie-loving grandmother: Helen Ann Curryer.

AIDAN WALSH (Bernadette) is a 4th year BFA performance major from Lewiston. She was last was seen in "Present Laughter" as Miss Erickson. Aidan honors her mother and best friend: Rachel Walsh.

KATY SOKOL(Claire) plans to graduate in May with her BFA in theatre. She has performed in several U of I productions including "The Open Hand" and "The Three Keys of Captain Hellfire." She is honoring her grandma, Judy, an integral part of her life.

BRYCE GOWEY (Gary) from Mountain Home, is in his fourth year BFA of performance at the University of Idaho. He strives to tell stories and build family with an ensemble. He honors his best friend & feline: Watson, who is always there to listen to his monologues.

FORREST SEARS (The Gentleman) is a U of I Professor Emeritus of Theatre Arts. He has directed 130 productions, including 90 at U of I. He thanks David for generously offering him this opportunity.

OLIVIA LONGIN (Rhonda) a senior BFA performance major from Great Falls, Montana, is thrilled to be back at U of I to study this important craft with her beloved, fellow storytellers. For Grandpa Ron and Grandpa Marc—to seizing the wonder of uncertainty and doubt.

GRACE MCGREEVY (Understudy: Beth) a Moscow, ID native, is a sophomore at U of I majoring in arts administration. In this play of beautiful parallel lives, Grace honors her mother, Barbara Bohrer, the life that burned the brightest.

EMIR DZAFEROVIC (Understudy: Tim) is a fifth year theatre major from Nampa. He honors his amazing sister: Sejla Dzaferovic - She shows me the meaning of moving forward and being there for others.

TAYLOR TELFORD (Understudy: Bernadette) is thrilled to act in "This Random World." Taylor is a first-year Theatre Arts major from Hailey, Idaho. This is Taylor's first production with U of I. Taylor would like to honor her mother Angie for her endless encouragement and beautiful heart.

KYMBER DODD (Understudy: Claire) born and raised in Boise, ID and is a 4th year BFA with an emphasis in performance, on track to graduate in the spring. Kymber honors all her mentors and all the amazing theatre artists she has bonded with during her time here.

PAYTON EDMONDS (Understudy: Gary) is a freshman at U of I majoring in Theater Arts. This marks the first of many productions in Payton's journey here. In this play of barely missed connections, Payton chooses to honor his Grandmother, who inspires him to be unapologetically himself every single day.

SAVANNAH JUDD (Understudy: Rhonda) has a true love for performing, and she is excited for this opportunity! Savannah is a freshman theatre major and has traveled all the way from her tiny home town of Snohomish, WA, to join the Vandal family. She thanks her family & close friends for all they do for her.



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Jillian Park, David Harlan, Shane O'Donnell, Rob Snyder, Tri-State, Western Laundry



^{*}Work on "This Random World" helps fulfill degree requirements for MFA candidates.

^{**}Guest Artist