

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

CSU THEATRE SPRING 2022 READING SERIES

ON THE BRINK

CURATED BY PROFESSOR SAFFRON HENKE



THE THANKSGIVING PLAY BY LARISSA FASTHORSE

DIRECTED BY **SAFFRON HENKE**

STARRING :

TAYLOR BAPTISTE, JAMES FAGAN, KALEB HACKER, AND ALAINA NOBLE

— FEBRUARY 10, 2022 —



Colorado State University

ABOUT THE SERIES:

Colorado State University Theatre continues our series of readings of new works addressing the hot topic themes of our times – issues that have pushed our culture to the brink, and that reveal whole new worlds of possibilities. A collaboration with professional theatre artists, faculty members, current students, and CSU alumni, *On the Brink* explores works representing a variety of underrepresented voices and perspectives.

CSU Theatre professor Saffron Henke's goals for the series are to expose CSU students to work from artists they may not otherwise know, and to amplify marginalized, queer, and BIPOC voices in the theatre. *On the Brink* also encourages a curiosity for, and practice of, reading new plays, and brings together faculty, professional artists, and students in creative collaboration.



SAFFRON HENKE (DIRECTOR) Saffron Henke is an Assistant Professor at Colorado State. She directed the digital media/feature film of *Concord Floral* last year and has enjoyed the process of *These Seven Sicknesses*. As a director, she has worked both professionally (Theatre Cedar Rapids, Riverside Theatre, Englert Theatre, Richmond Shakespeare Festival) and in university settings (Miami University, Coe College, Augustana College, St. Ambrose University, and Cornell College). She is a long-time performer and member of Actor's Equity – highlights include the recent release of a film version of Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull*, a web series for HBO's *True Blood*, two seasons at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and lead in many regional and international venues. Saffron is also the Artistic Director of The Brink Theatre Company, a company focused on doing site specific new work. Learn more at www.saffronhenke.com and thank you so much for joining us!

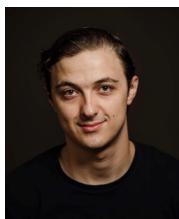
THE PERFORMERS:



TAYLOR BAPTISTE (LOGAN) Taylor is a senior starting her last semester at CSU. She is a double major in Theater Performance and Hospitality Management with a minor in Business Administration. You may have seen her as the Blind Seer in the recent CSU production of *These Seven Sicknesses*. Taylor is currently assistant directing for *She Kills Monsters*, and working on writing her own script. She is grateful to be able to continue doing theater with awesome people even in these crazy times!



JAMES FAGAN (CADON) James is currently in his last semester here at CSU as a Theatre Performance major, and could not be happier to be a part of the *On the Brink* reading series. You may know him from his roles as Alfie in *A Man of No Importance*, Peter Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Cliff in *Cabaret*. He is returning to the CSU stage as Dr. Scott in *The Rocky Horror Show*. He would like to thank everyone in the Theatre department for his incredible time here.



KALEB HACKER (JAXTON) Kaleb is a fourth year performance major at CSU and is graduating in May! You might have seen him as Victor dancing in *Cabaret* (Dir. Noah Racey), or on the screen as Bobolink in *Concord Floral* (Dir. Saffron Henke) and most recently on stage at the disco in *Lysistrata* (Dir. Debbie Swann). Kaleb would like to thank Dir. Saffron Henke for the opportunity and Kyle Randal for all the behind the scenes work! Last, but not least, Kaleb would like to thank his friends and family for the support.



ALAINA NOBLE (ALICIA) Alaina is thrilled to be doing her first performance for the *On the Brink* series CSU! She is a sophomore at CSU studying Theater Performance and is so grateful to have this opportunity. Not only does Alaina perform at CSU she also performs in the community theater productions in Loveland, Colo. Her favorites have been *RENT* (Mimi), *Bonnie and Clyde* (Bonnie), *American Idiot The Musical* (Whattersname) all at Harrington Arts Alliance. She is forever grateful to her family for being very supportive and compassionate about her pursuing her dreams and she hopes that you enjoy the show!

UPCOMING ON THE BRINK PERFORMANCES:

***SHADOW OF THE SON* BY KATE LESLIE** **MARCH 10, 2022**

Eternity is a long time to live by someone else's rules. Artemis is the goddess of the moon, and her brother, Apollo, is the god of the sun. Expected to live up to the ideals of the immortals, Artemis longs for freedom and the opportunity to chart her own path. But when she builds her own world away from that of her father, has she simply traded one set of impossible expectations for another?

***HYPE MAN* BY IDRIS GOODWIN** **APRIL 12, 2022**

A rapper, beat-maker, and hype man start to find success making music together, but harmony is harder to find when the interracial hip-hop trio clashes over how to use their new found platform in the wake of a police shooting. *Hype Man* is a rhythmically woven drama exploring race, representation, fame and friendship.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF
SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE EVENTS

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