

THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THEATRE, AND DANCE PRESENTS

CSU THEATRE SPRING 2022 READING SERIES

ON THE BRINK

CURATED BY PROFESSOR SAFFRON HENKE

**7:30 P.M. VIA ZOOM / POST-SHOW DISCUSSION AT 9:30 P.M.
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

VISIT [THEATRE.COLOSTATE.EDU/EVENTS](https://theatre.colostate.edu/events) FOR DETAILS

**FEBRUARY 10, 2022 – *THE THANKSGIVING PLAY* BY LARISSA FASTHORSE
DIRECTED BY SAFFRON HENKE**

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

Good intentions collide with absurd assumptions in Larissa FastHorse's wickedly funny satire, as a troupe of terminally "woke" white teaching artists scrambles to create a pageant that somehow manages to celebrate both Turkey Day and Native American Heritage Month.

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

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?

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

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.



Colorado State University

Director



Natasia Reinhardt - Natasia Reinhardt is a queer disabled theater artist located in Virginia. Her recent works include Resident Intimacy Choreographer at the American Shakespeare Center and Mary Baldwin University, Actor at Ensemble theater of Cincinnati, and intimacy lead of Grassroots Shakespeare Company DC.

Playwright



Kate Leslie - Kate is a playwright, director, and teaching artist currently living in Los Angeles. In 2022, Kate completed her MFA in Playwriting from the Playwright's Lab at Hollins

University. Her short play *Ashes to Dust* was a finalist for the Gary Garrison award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in 2019. In 2020, *The Love Code* was awarded the National Partners of the American Theatre Playwriting Award. Kate is a proud member of the Dramatist Guild of America. Bykateleslie.com

Cast



Sierra Bartt (Bri) - Sierra is a third year theater and music student at CSU. Their most recent role was Chuck Biggs in *She Kills Monsters* at Colorado State University. They're very excited to be playing a non-binary character in this reading. Sierra is excited to make new connections through this process and present contemporary material that highlights the idea of gender. They hope you enjoy the performance.



Matt Bush (Acteon, Hyacinthus) - Matt is in his sophomore year here at CSU, majoring in Theatre, with a performance concentration. This is his first production performing at CSU, and he is very excited to be a part of the On The Brink reading series. He would like to thank the incredibly hard-working production team, as well as his family, for their continued support.



Rich Brown (Zeus) - Rich Brown has been teaching physical acting and devising at Western Washington University since 2006. He earned his PhD in theatre from the University of Oregon in 2003. Rich was awarded the KC/ACTF National Award for Outstanding Lead Deviser in 2020 for *#HereToo-WWU* and in 2012 for *US*. Recent favorite productions include *Lying* and *The Snow Queen* with Blessed Unrest Theatre, a devising company in NYC, *Circle Mirror Transformation* with Idaho Repertory Theatre, and *The Glass Menagerie* with Western Summer Theatre.



Saffron Henke (Leto) - Saffron is an Assistant Professor of Theatre and Head of Performance at Colorado State University. A longtime member of the Actor's Equity Association, Saffron has performed at many regional theatres, including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Riverside Theatre, and the Furious Theatre Company. She was also an Associate Artist and acting company member for four seasons at the Sacramento Theatre Company, and served as Director of STC-2, a training conservatory. She has taught at the University of Southern California, the Center Theatre Group, and at A Noise Within Theatre, St. Ambrose University, the University of Iowa, and is the Artistic Director of The Brink Theatre Company, a company focused on doing site specific new work. She is the curator of the ON THE BRINK series. www.saffronhenke.com



Kelby Jakober (Artemis) - Kelby is a senior theatre major at Colorado State University, and this is her final semester in the program. She recently performed at CSU as Antigone in These Seven

Sicknesses, Theresa Bedell in *Boy Gets Girl*, Peaseblossom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Eleanor in *Big Love*. Her upcoming performances includes a role in *Sense and Sensibility* at OpenStage Theatre & Company, directed by Noah Racey. Kelby is so excited for the opportunity to work on a new play and she hopes you enjoy the reading!



Nyssa Justis (Daphne) - Nyssa is thrilled to be working with some incredible people in *Shadow of the Son*. She is currently a Sophomore Theater major double majoring in Clinical/Counseling Psychology. Some of her favorite credits include Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Spark), Anne Boleyn in *Six: The Musical Review* (Baechle), and Perch Perkins in *Spongebob Squarepants: The Musical* (Spark).



Megan Klane (Nyah) - Megan is a third-year student with a double major in Theater and Performance alongside Journalism and Media Communication. She is immensely excited to be cast in *Shadow of the Son* and is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this production. While this show marks her CSU debut, her past performances include: Elsa (*Frozen*), Glinda the Good Witch/Auntie Em (*The Wizard of Oz: The Musical*), and Margot (*Legally Blonde*). Megan would like to thank God, her family, her horses, and her friends for their continued support, and she extends her gratitude to the CSU faculty for all of the knowledge that they have shared with her.



Trey Wallen (Apollo) - This is Trey's 4th show at CSU and is extremely thankful to be a part of such a thought provoking show. He would like to thank his parents and friends for their immense support and hopes you enjoy the show!



Charlotte Williamson (Kallie, Niobe) - Charlotte is a 3rd year transfer student majoring in Theater Performance with a minor in American Sign Language. Previous credits include Kaliope in *She Kills Monsters* (Colorado State University), Dipsas in *Lysistrata* (Colorado State University), Ensemble in *The H.O.P.E Project* (Colorado State University), and Ensemble in *The Laramie Project* (Theater Company of Lafayette).



Peter Young (Orion) - Peter is excited to be performing at CSU. He is currently a Sophomore Theatre Major. Some of his past performances include Ensemble for *The H.O.P.E Project* (CSU), The Pilot for *The Little Prince* (DCPA) and Ensemble in *She Kills Monster* (CSU) He is excited to be reading for this new play, and is happy to be a part of it.