

The Bank of
Commerce

ASUMW

THE UNIVERSITY
of
MONTANA WESTERN

**WATCH ONLINE APRIL 21-MAY 4
UMWESTERN.EDU**

**LIVE WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE
APRIL 29
UMW SMALL AUDITORIUM
7:30 PM**

Mythfest 2022

PERFORMANCE
FESTIVAL

DIRECTED BY MIRANDA ZENT

**GUEST ARTIST OSCAR GINER,
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**ADMISSION FREE;
DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

SCENES

Persephone/Springtime

Written by Tatum Higginbotham

Filmed/edited by Tatum Higginbotham

The Singing Cowboy: Jeshua Stradley

Written by Miranda Zent

Music by Jeshua Stradley

Lighting/Filming/Audio Engineering: Jeshua Stradley

Café de Chinitas: Oscar Giner

Written by Federico García Lorca

Blood Wedding

Written by Federico García Lorca, Translated by Oscar Giner

The Moon: Emily Rose Adams

Death: Hugo Crick-Furman

Music by Miranda Zent

The Tempest: Adrianna Irvine

Anonymous letter: Rosenberg Library Archives

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

The Eygre text from *The Great Galveston Disaster*, Paul Lester 1900,
music by Miranda Zent

Queen of the Wave, Traditional Hymn sung by Adrianna Irvine,
adaptation written and performed by Miranda Zent

Silence: Jeshua Stradley/A'Lora Giono

Music by Jeshua Stradley and A'Lora Giono

Lighting/Filming/Audio Engineering: Jeshua Stradley

Filming: José Ramirez

Coabay: Oscar Giner

Music by Oscar Giner

Lifeline: A'Lora Giono

Music by A'Lora Giono

Lighting/Filming/Audio Engineering: Jeshua Stradley

Salem Witch Trials/Mary Warren: Samantha Gregg

Court transcripts, Salem, Massachusetts, 1692

Guahayona's Rowing Song

Music by Oscar Giner

DIRECTION/EDITING/MUSIC.....**MIRANDA ZENT**
FACULTY PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS.....**JUDY ULRICH AND STEPHEN SEDER**

Unless otherwise noted, all performers filmed themselves.

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

EMILY ADAMS is an actress based in Phoenix, Arizona. Her recent stage credits include Cherry Lane Theatre's Off Broadway production of Myrna Casa' Summer, Summer in which she appeared as Celeste, as well as MCC Theatre's production of Marlowe's Doctor Faustus as the Good Angel. She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Arizona State University and was one of ten esteemed alumni from Barrett Honors College in Spring 2018. She graduated with distinction for her creative contributions for the production of her new play, *Original Sin*.



HUGO CRICK-FURMAN is a performer based in Phoenix, Arizona. They are preoccupied with topics. Their recent theatre work can be found encoded in a pattern of footprints in the mud. When not busy creating Iconic Theatre Moments, they spend their time in the cove.



A'LORA GIONO is a sophomore at UMW who plans on graduating with her AA this semester. Her hobbies include theater, art, music, and stage makeup. She has been performing since she was seven years old and fell in love with the stage. Since then, she has been in multiple shows in roles ranging from Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* to the Witch in *Into the Woods*. Most recently she played Margaret Leavitt in UMW's production of *Silent Sky*. She enjoys being part of theater production whenever given the chance.

SAMANTHA GREGG is from Athol, Idaho and enjoys the spookier side of life. She loves her family and friends. Samantha performed the part of Marie in *Mythfest 2021*, and enjoyed the experience.



TATUM HIGGINBOTHAM is a senior at UMW. She performed *Billy the Kid* in *Mythfest 2021*, and some of her original poetry. She is studying Natural Horsemanship and Biology. Tatum is a fitness trainer and also enjoys poetry, painting, photography, hiking, and reading. She plans to pursue nursing and is excited for her final semesters at Montana Western.



ADRIANNA IRVINE is a post-baccalaureate student from Belt, Montana getting a minor in K-12 Drama from UMU. Adrianna has been involved in theatre since middle school. She performed Ariel in *The Tempest* at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in Scotland. Other roles include Lady Percy/Henry IV Part I, Olivia/Twelfth Night, and Phebe/As You Like It with the Belt Valley Shakespeare Players. Adrianna has always been invested in the arts and plans to share that enthusiasm in her future work as a teacher.

JESHUA STRADLEY is a senior Business major, with a minor in Drama. He plans on graduating in spring 2022. Jeshua is interested in music, performance, woodworking, and snowboarding. He has performed in *The Giver* as The Giver, Freddie Filmore in *It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play*, Peter Shaw in *Silent Sky*, and several characters in Mythfest 2021. He likes to perform because he enjoys the thrill of the stage. He will be starting his custom guitar business in the summer of 2022.





OSCAR GINER is a dramatic poet who has been working in the American Southwest and in his native Caribbean for over four decades. He is a professor at the Herberger College of Design and the Arts and the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. With co-author Robert L. Ivie, Giner has written book chapters and articles that have been published in China, Poland and Slovenia. He has also published *Hunt the Devil: A Demonology of US War Culture*, and has completed a new book, *After Empire: Passage to Democracy*. Giner has translated the only surviving text of the Maya theater, the *Rabinal Achí*, as a guest artist of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He recently translated, acted and directed *Summer, Summer* by Myrna Casas, at the Off-Broadway Cherry Lane Theatre in New York.

MIRANDA ZENT is an educator, director, composer, actor, writer, and musician who has worked in theater/interdisciplinary arts and higher education for over 15 years. She has performed at New Dramatists in New York City, South by Southwest, regional theater, and national and international venues focused on areas of performance, education, technology, and Jungian psychology. Some highlights include the New West Electro-Acoustic Music Organization where she performed original work created in collaboration with composers from MIT's Media Lab, and the Fay Lecture Series in Analytical Psychology, where she has been invited to perform her original work for over 15 years. She graduated from Arizona State University's Arts, Media & Engineering program with an emphasis in Theater/Interdisciplinary Digital Media and Performance, and she directed an interdisciplinary program for fine arts and liberal education at Columbia College Chicago before returning to her home state of Montana. She lives in Dillon, Montana where she teaches at the University of Montana Western in Fine Arts and Education.



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I've worked with our guest artist, Oscar Giner, many times over many years, and every time, something important has happened. Oscar has directed a now legendary Mythfest at Arizona State University for more fifteen years. He has an uncanny ability to bring out the very best in everyone he works with, and the privilege of working closely with him on this project over the last several months has been a truly remarkable gift for which I am profoundly grateful.

Mythfest in Montana is inspired by and modeled after Oscar's festival in Arizona, except much of our Montana work so far has been virtual. *Mythfest* in Montana began in 2021 during the pandemic when theaters were closed. Limited by COVID restrictions, I worked with actors over Zoom to develop stories and performances over the course of a semester. Students costumed themselves with clothes from their closets and filmed themselves with desk lamps, phones, laptops—whatever they had on hand.

Although creating with tools immediately available was born out of necessity, it turned out there was something intrinsically valuable in the process. The process made very clear that any story worth telling can be told anywhere, and it's often most effective when told simply—on back porches, around campfires, and nowadays, through simple virtual presentation, as well.

I'm delighted to return this year for *Mythfest* 2022 at UMW, because it turns out the online process opens up a new world of valuable possibilities. For one, we were able to branch out to work with artists at Arizona State University and lay groundwork for working with other campuses and professional artists in the future. In addition, I witnessed students developing the confidence and skill necessary for this rather new performance form—which sometimes had them performing in their basements and bedroom closets—a genuinely remarkable achievement. I am confident this experience, and others like it going forward, have potential to empower our students with the knowledge that they can create anywhere: all they need is a story, and a phone, and the phone is optional.

I'm proud of the work we've done, and I encourage you to share your applause for these wonderful students in our YouTube comments!

THANK YOU

Special Thanks to Judy Ulrich for making many things possible. This place won't be the same without you. And always thanks to Max and Thomas.

The Bank of Commerce, ASUMW and Student Senate; Stephen Seder, Bradie Matt; Klaire Kramer, Matt Raffety, Josh Benda & UMW Communications; Roxanne Engellant & UMW Foundation, UMW Business Office; UMW Facilities Services, Provost Johnny Maclean, UMW Theater, The Virginia City Players, Megan McCauley and KDBM.



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