

UNIVERSITY of
**MOUNT
UNION**
Be Exceptional

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE



**John Proctor
is the
Villain**

a play by Kimberly Belflower

John Proctor is the Villain
By Kimberly Belflower

Cast

Carter Smith..... Robert Rush
Shelby Holcomb..... Rose Morrison
Beth Powell..... Olivia Wolfram
Nell Shaw.....Allie Darrah
Ivy Watkins.....Olivia Morey
Raelynn Nix..... Kayla J. Cordle
Mason Adams.....Clay James
Lee Turner.....Olan Domer
Bailey Gallagher.....Amy Lily
Charlie Park.....Clorise Busch

The play will be performed without an intermission; however, the audience is invited to take a brief stretch break following scene 10. Patrons are reminded to stay near their seats and maintain social distancing from other audience members.

Production Staff

Director.....Kevin P. Kern
Scenic and Lighting Designer.....Ryan T. Patterson
Costume Designer.....Sarah Russell
Sound Designer.....Ryan T. Patterson
Stage Manager.....Britt Kolek
Assistant Stage Manager.....Lex Rushnok
Light Board Operator.....Natalie Fry
Sound Operator.....Skylar Mauge
Back Stage Safety Compliance.....Jacob Williams, Marissa Scott
House Manager.....Bethany Dudones
Assistant House Manager.....Emily Schaar
Wardrobe Crew.....Naimah Coleman, Serena Sanzo
Costume Construction.....Eileen Armstrong, Allison Rundell
Scene Shop Workers.....Kayla Cordle, Natalie Fry,
Britt Kolek, Skylar Mauge,
Lexi Rushnok, Eva Wagner,
Clay Yoder

Director's Notes

When asked what all of the “good playwrights” had in common, the great Arthur Miller (certainly a member of that group) said:

“They are all burning with some anger at the way the world is.”

The mid 19th century realists and the naturalists that followed them felt they had a duty to expose the ills and evils of the world so that those who sat in the theatres would become angry enough to go out and do something about it.

In 2020, seemingly all of a sudden, the pandemic forced us to realize that doing theatre was a privilege; it was not guaranteed that we would be allowed to perform for you this fall. We reasoned that if we have this chance, we'd better make it count. So, with the 19th century realists in mind, we found something quite new, and quite important. Written in 2019 by Kimberly Belflower, *John Proctor Is The Villain* turns the patriarchal worldview of *The Crucible*'s stoic hero upside down. It challenges the belief that Proctor was ever anything more than a man who cheated on his spouse with - for all intents and purposes - a child, and then lashed out at his wife for having the audacity not to trust him.

A “feel-good musical”, this ain't.

But it's a story worth telling, because it's a perception worth examining, and a privilege worth dismantling. Like the audiences who first watched the great naturalist drama *A Doll's House*, we hope you leave tonight feeling a little uncomfortable, because like Nora said in Ibsen's masterwork:

“I can't be satisfied any longer with what most people say... I must think things out for myself.”

From the Dean of Arts & Humanities

The last few months have been challenging to us all, but the pandemic has proven a special challenge to artists. With theatres and other performance venues shuttered, so many artists have been without performance spaces in which to share their talents. Many performers have turned to virtual performances, which are wonderful opportunities to make the arts accessible to a much wider audience. Yet, there is still something special about the communal experience of watching a performance together, in the same space and at the same time. So, it is with great joy that I welcome you to today's performance of *John Proctor is the Villain*. The Mount Union Theatre Department, Physical Plant staff, and others have spent the past weeks collaborating to ensure that today's performance is safe, both for our audience members and for our performers. The Brush Auditorium may be less crowded today, but I know that your enthusiasm for the performance and support for the performers will make it seem like a full house.

Dr. Heather Duda
Founding Dean of the College of Arts & Humanities

The Department of Theatre's mission is to **equip** students for professional work, **prepare** students for continued study, and **cultivate** a campus-wide appreciation and understanding of Theatre.



Department of Theatre
Scholarship Auditions

Do you know a high-school senior with an interest in Theatre?

Please take a moment to let them know that there are scholarships for Performers, Designers, Theatre Technicians, and Stage Managers in the Theatre department, as well as scholarships for participation in all of the Visual and Performing Arts at Mount Union.

Please send them to:

www.mountunion.edu/department-of-theatre

Audition Dates:

Saturday November 14, 2020

Monday January 18, 2021

Saturday February 13, 2021

Monday February 15, 2021

Saturday February 20, 2021

This play contains language that some may find objectionable. It deals with themes of sexual harassment and exploitation.

Department of Theatre Faculty

Kevin P. Kern; Chair of Theatre
Sarah Russell; Assistant Professor of Costuming and Makeup
Ryan T. Patterson; Assistant Professor of Theatre,
Technical Director/Facilities Manager
Michael Gatto; Adjunct Instructor in Acting
Katie Gibson; Adjunct Instructor in Dance
Robert Schneider; Adjunct Instructor in Theatre History
Jennifer Francis; Administrative Assistant
Lynn Riggle; Box Office and Performing Arts Manager

Upcoming Theatre Events

A Devised Theatre Piece

co-created by the cast and
Bob Berky, the 2020 Jack & Madge Peters Guest Artist
Virtual Performances November 12 -15

Hamlet: A Video Adaptation

by William Shakespeare
adapted by Gary Lamb
Virtual Performances November 12 -15

Carrie the Musical

Book, Lyrics, and Music by
Lawrence D. Cohen, Dean Pitchford, and Michael Gore
March 25-28, Brush Theatre at 7:30-2

Student Directed One-Acts

Spring 2021

Shakespeare At The Castle presents

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Summer 2021