



ON THE VERGE

BY ERIC OVERMYER

DIRECTED BY BELLA POYNTON

FIRST PRODUCED BY CENTER STAGE, BALTIMORE

NOVEMBER 2,3,4,9,10 | 8PM
NOVEMBER 11 | 3PM

THE FLEXIBLE THEATRE,
IN THE DONALD SAVAGE BUILDING



BUFFALO STATE
The State University of New York

Co-sponsor: Casting Hall Productions

Casting Hall Productions is funded by USG through the mandatory student activity fee

Spring 2024

Course Offerings

CATNUM	COURSE TITLE	CRN	DAYS	MEETING TIME
DAN200	MODERN DANCE TECHNIQUE I	2305	MON/WED	11:00 am - 12:50 pm
DAN214	INTRO DANCE TECHNIQUE	3435	TUE/THU	10:50 am - 12:05 pm
DAN224	DANCE APPREC	1012		ONLINE
DAN224	DANCE APPREC	3591		ONLINE
DAN234	POLITICS BLACK DANCE AMERICA	2533	TUE/THU	09:25 am - 10:40 am
DAN244	SOCIAL DANCE FORMS	3439	FRI	09:00 am - 11:50 am
DAN302	MOD DAN TEC 2	3434	MON/WED	11:00 am - 12:50 pm
THA106	INTRO THEATRE	1124	MON	06:00 pm - 08:40 pm
THA106	INTRO THEATRE	1847	TUE/THU	09:25 am - 10:40 am
THA106	INTRO THEATRE	2306		ONLINE
THA106	INTRO THEATRE	2631		ONLINE
THA218	SCRIPT ANALYSIS I	1523	TUE/THU	10:50 am - 12:05 pm
THA226	ACTING I	2633	MON/WED	03:40 pm - 05:30 pm
THA226	ACTING I	3617	MON/WED	11:00 am - 12:50 pm
THA227	ACTING II	3523	MON/WED	03:00 pm - 04:50 pm
THA231	THA PRACT II	3534		TBD
THA295	VOICE INTENSIVE	2738	MON/WED	09:00 am - 10:50 am
THA318	HIST BAROQUE TO MODERN	1126	TUE/THU	01:40 pm - 02:55 pm
THA331	THA PRACT IV	3536		TBD
THA335	COSTUME DESIGN FOR THEATER	3604	TUE/THU	09:25 am - 10:40 am
THA350	DIRECTING I	1208	MON/WED	09:00 am - 10:50 am
THA400	VOICE AND MOVEMENT III	3528	MON/WED	01:00 pm - 02:50 pm
THA416	SEMINAR/THEATER	3529	FRI	12:00 pm - 01:50 pm
THA421	DRAMA FROM AFRI AMER PERSPECTI	3437	WED	06:00 pm - 08:40 pm
THA426	ACTING IV ON CAMERA	3530	TUE	06:00 pm - 08:40 pm
THA470	ENSEMBLE THEATER	3531	MON/WED	09:00 am - 10:50 am

Letter From The Chair

Welcome to Buffalo State Theater!

I personally invite you to get to know Buffalo State Theater– our educational team, our students, our productions, and our programs. We are a community of individuals brought together by an understanding of the potential power of live theater and the potent benefits of theater training. We provide our students with the necessary skills and experiential learning opportunities to prepare for a career in live entertainment. They can also gain valuable skills in performance, design, and writing for TV and Film through our collaboration with other BSU departments and the robust film industry in Buffalo.

We offer a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Theater, Arts and Letters degrees in Theater and Dance, and a minor in Theater/Dance. Check out our website or contact us for more information!

Theater.buffalostate.edu,
becklecy@buffalostate.edu.

Welcome. Enjoy the show, and we hope to see you again soon!

Carol Beckley
Theater Department Chair

DIRECTORS NOTE

I first came across Eric Overmyer's *On the Verge*, the year after I graduated from acting school at Boston University, when the play was produced as one of BU's season offerings. While I never saw the show, having moved to New York City at that point, I was enamored with the production photos of these three women, Mary, Fanny, and Alex, on incredible adventures. Plays rarely depict adventure as we think of it in popular media; the hero's journey is far more suited to stories in novels or on screen, yet the play not only encapsulates our cultural descriptions of ecotourism as adventure, but also reclaims the adventure narrative itself for women explorers.

Moreover, as feminist plays are often wont to do, the piece explodes the adventure genre, pushing it beyond the exploration of just space, and into time. As much as *On the Verge* is an adventure play, it is also a time travel play, something we don't see all that frequently in the theatre. While many plays use time manipulation as a strategy for delivering exposition and dramaturgical information (think, flashbacks, non-linear stories, repetition, etc.,) this play engages with good old fashioned time travel into the future, literally.

When I returned to the play years later for research purposes, I found myself profoundly moved by Mary's journey. Mary has an academic, anthropological heart, and fantasizes not of fame, fortune, or love, but of recognition in her field. As she realizes she has not yet found her place in time, we hear her wax poetic about "the Milky Way... quarks and quasars," and "billions of new worlds, waiting to be discovered." As a lifelong lover of science fiction, I find the very subtle suggestion that Mary's journey persists beyond the contemporary moment, and into an era of space travel and galactic exploration both exhilarating and heartbreaking. Mary knows she must continue on, or risk never becoming her true self, speaking deftly to anyone who has ever considered themselves a "solo sojourner."

The enigmatic nature of the future can be terrifying, but with their unwavering desire to know, understand, and experience more, Mary, Fanny, and Alex remind us that change is to be relished rather than feared. In Act II, Alex tells us, "You cannot resist the future! ... You must embrace it with all your heart!"—an idea this play has re-instilled in me—and a sentiment I wish to share with all of you, as we journey together, into the unknowable, but spectacular future. **-Bella Poynton**

CAST OF ON THE VERGE

Mary.....	Emily Cannon
Fanny.....	Neshiah Alston
Alex.....	Jaden Browne
Alex.....	Gianna Cotto
Yeti/Mr. Coffee/Gus.....	Min Zo
Alphonse/Mr. Coffee/Nicky.....	Manuel Mejia
Grover/Gorge Troll/Madame Nhu.....	Jaiden Morey
Grover/Gorge Troll/Yeti.....	Myshawn Sikes
Alphonse/Madame Nhu/Nicky.....	Jeremy Read
Mary Understudy.....	Morgan Rogers
Fanny Understudy.....	Isabella Lamberty

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director.....	Bella Poynton
Stage Manager.....	Jake Gear
Assistant Director.....	Zoe Goñez
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Morgan Rogers
Costume Design.....	Carol Beckley
Set Design.....	Ron Schwartz
Technical Director.....	Ron Schwartz
Production Manager.....	Ron Schwartz
Lighting Design.....	Harry Mandris
Sound Design.....	Emma Connaire
Costume Director.....	Erica Fire
Properties.....	Spencer Dick
Choreographer.....	Naila Ansari

CREW OF ON THE VERGE

Light board operator.....	Jake Gear
Sound board operator.....	Michael Hillyer
Hair and makeup.....	Gianna Cotto
Deck Chief.....	Shawn Smith

CREW OF ON THE VERGE

Costume build crew:

Jaden Browne
Tremiya Giddens
Lexus Hale
Lady Hamilton
AnneMarie Jordan
Manuel Mejia

Scenic build crew:

Janiah Lawrence
Shawn Smith
Jeremy Read
Haran Sanders
Na'Trell Snead
Ben Kutnyak

Run crew:

Scout Chase, Oghenetega Eruotor, Shawn Smith
Paige Suarez, Isabella Lamberty, Morgan Rogers

CASTING HALL PRODUCTIONS EBOARD

President.....	Zoe Goñez
Vice President.....	Gianna Cotto
Treasurer.....	Emily Cannon
Vice Treasurer.....	Manuel Mejia
Secretary.....	Neshiah Alston
Marketing Manager.....	Armando Giangreco-Marotta
Audience Services Manager.....	Stepheney Warnstadt
Org Rep.....	Jaden Browne

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Bella Poynton (She/Her), Director.

Bella is a playwright, director, and theater scholar. Her creative work has been published with Samuel French and can be seen in *The Best Ten-Minute Plays of 2019*, *The Best American Short Plays 2018-2019*, *The Weirdest Plays of 2020*, and *WE-US: Monologues for Gender Minority Characters*. Her scholarly work has been published in *Comparative Drama*, *Theatre/Practice*, *Global Performance Studies*, and *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*. MFA, University of Iowa; PhD, University at Buffalo. Thank you to the *On the Verge* cast and crew for such a fantastic experience. *Allons!*

Zoe Goñez (She/Her), Assistant Director.

Zoe is currently a senior theater major and television and film arts minor at Buffalo State University. She is also the President of Casting Hall Productions. Past credits include *Medea* (Medea), *Pippin* (Assistant Stage Manager), *The Wizard of Oz* (Stage Manager), and *Othello* (Bianca). She made her directorial debut this summer as a teaching artist for Shea's Summer Educational Programs. Zoe is looking forward to the rest of the shows this season and working alongside her friends before she graduates. She would like to thank her family and partner for being her biggest supporters.

Morgan Rogers (They/She/He),

Mary Understudy, Assistant Stage Manager, Dance Captian

Morgan is currently a freshman at Buffalo State University majoring in art and design with a concentration in digital media. Morgan has been in several musicals but this is only their second time doing a play! She is very excited and honored to be a part of the cast and hopefully do more shows in the future. Thank you to their cast-mates, as well as Jake, Zoe, and Dr. Bella for making her feel welcomed and making the experience possible!

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Jake Grear (He/Him), Stage Manager.

A recent graduate of Buffalo State's theater program, Jake is thrilled to be returning to stage manage this production of *On the Verge*. Outside of this show, Jake works as the Arts Education Coordinator at Shea's Performing Arts Center. Up next, Jake will be stage managing and assistant directing Buffalo State's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Many thanks to Carol, Bella and Zoe for their incredible support on this production!

Spencer Dick (He/Him), Properties

Spencer Dick Assistant Technical Director of Alleyway Theatre. He a graduate of Niagara University where he acquired a degree in Theatre production and design and minors in fine arts and communications. His credits include Great Expectations, (ASM) and The Mai (Props) at ICTC; Cabaret (Charge Artist) at Second Gen; People Places Things (Charge Artist) and Misery (Charge Artist) at the Kavinoky. His NU credits include Decision Height (Scenic Designer), Sylvia (Scenic Designer), Cabaret (Assistant scene design), girl. (Set, Sound, and Technical Director), Independence (Set, Sound, and Video Designer).

Harry Mandris (He/Him), Lighting Design.

Harry Mandris' theatrical career began at the Washington Theatre Club in Washington, D.C. in 1974. He is a graduate of the North Carolina School for the Arts with a B.F.A. in Technical Theatre. Harry worked at the University at Buffalo's Center for the Art for the past 28 years. He retired in February 2023. In Western NY, Harry has designed lighting for Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Artpark, Studio Arena Theatre, The Kavinoky Theatre, and many concerts at venues such as Shea's, Kleinhan's, Lasalle Park, and 710 Main Theatre.

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Emma Connaire (She/Her), Sound Design.

Emma Connaire recently graduated from Buffalo State University with a BA in Theater. She is building a career in sound design.

Emma has worked professionally with companies such as Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Alleyway Theater, and Ujima Co. Most recently, she was the assistant sound designer for *The Color Purple* at Shea's 710. Other design credits include *Othello*, *Macbeth*, *Medea*, and Shakespeare in Delaware Park's summer touring show *Where There's a Will There's A Play*.

Emily Cannon (She/Her), Mary.

Emily is currently a sophomore social studies education (7-12) and theater major at Buffalo State. She is also the treasurer of Casting Hall Productions. Past credits include: SJCI- *Rumors* (Claire), *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Narrator); Kenton STAGE- *Mean Girls* (Karen); Buffalo State- *Pippin* (Fastrada / Dance Captain). After *On The Verge*, Emily plans to continue pursuing theater in the Buffalo area. In her next project, Emily will be co-directing and choreographing *The Little Mermaid* at St. Christopher School and auditioning for *Little Shop of Horrors*. She would like to thank the cast, crew, production team, friends, and her family for their encouragement and love!

Neshiah Alston (She/Her), Fanny.

Neshiah is currently a sophomore at Buffalo State majoring in journalism with a minor in theater. She has been doing theater since childhood with credits in directing, costume design, and acting. Her most recent credits include: Kenmore East- *Mamma Mia* (Tanya), *Tiny Beautiful Things* (Director); STAGE- *Beauty and the Beast* (Babette), *Mean Girls* (Mrs. George) (Costume Designer); Buffalo State- *Medea* (2nd Woman of Corinth). Neshiah has had a blast working with an incredible cast and crew and is so grateful to be taking on this role. She gives thanks to Bella, Zoe, and Jake for being a pillar of support for her.

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Jaden Browne (She/Her), Alex.

Jaden is currently a junior theater major and a dance minor at Buffalo State planning to graduate a year early. She has performed in *The Sound of Music* (Brigitta), *Heathers* (ensemble), and *Medea* (Third Woman of Corinth). Jaden hopes to be in one of the upcoming shows in the spring semester as it will be her last one before she graduates. She is so happy to call the entire cast her friends.

Gianna Cotto (She/Her), Alex.

Gianna is a theater major in her junior year at Buffalo State. She started acting at a young age and some of her work includes roles in *Once on This Island* (2014), *Chicago* (2015), *Les Misérables* (2018), *A Midnight Summer's Dream* (2018), *In the Heights* (2019), *Macbeth* (2020), *Pippin* (2021 actress, makeup and hair design), *Medea* (2022 makeup and hair design). Gianna has also participated in many vocal ensembles/vocal performances throughout the years. Gianna would like to say a special thank you to her family for always allowing her to chase her dreams.

Min Zo (He/Him), Yeti/Mr. Coffee/Gus.

Min is currently a junior at Buffalo State majoring in theater arts. Min was in last year's production of *Medea* as the Tutor. He would like to be in any upcoming shows possible but is hoping to land a lead role before graduating. Thank you!

Manuel Mejia (He/They), Alphonse/Mr. Coffee/Nicky.

Manny is a sophomore at Buffalo State majoring in theater. He has appeared on stage in Buffalo State's *Medea* (Aegeus), as well as *Clue* (Wadsworth), and *Miracle Worker* (James). Back in May 2022, Manny directed a production of *Plaza Suite* by Neil Simon and hopes to explore even more aspects of theater in the future. All love to everyone who's been part of this process!

CAST AND CREW BIOS

Jeremy Read (He/Him), Alphonse/Madame Nhu/Nicky.

Jeremy is a sophomore theater and economics & finance major here at Buffalo State University. Previous credits include *Othello* (Cassio) and *Medea* (Soldier/Attendant). Jeremy is the current President of Residence Hall Association and is a USG Senator. He prides himself on being active in his community. Jeremy also made his directorial debut this past semester directing the October reading of *Doubt*. Jeremy would like to thank his friends and family for their endless support.

Jaiden Morey (He/Him), Grover/Gorge Troll/Madame Nhu.

Jaiden is currently a sophomore at Buffalo State University majoring in Theatre. He has been in many musicals throughout high school, but this is his first play! He found this play very confusing and not all that funny but after a couple rehearsals and understanding sessions, he now finds the play only mildly confusing and extremely funny!! He's happy to be a part of this production and is planning on being in many more in the future.

Myshawwn Sikes (He/Him), Grover/Gorge Troll/Yeti.

Myshawwn is currently a sophomore at Buffalo State majoring in theater. This is his first show and he will graduate in 2026.

Isabella Lamberty (She/Her), Fanny Understudy/ Wardrobe Crew

Isabella is currently a freshman at Buffalo State University majoring in writing. In high school, she played the roles of Mollie in *Animal Farm* and Gladys in the musical, *Memphis*. This is her first time working as an understudy in a production.

Apply to the Buffalo State Theater Program

As one of only two programs accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) in Western New York, Buffalo State offers students in-depth, hands-on training. In addition to our award-winning faculty, our students are paired with local theater professionals for mentoring and are active in Buffalo's thriving theater scene. A Buffalo State theater graduate is prepared with professional experience and the skills necessary for rewarding careers in theater

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CASTING HALL

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