

PLAYBILL®

Virtual Theatre Project 2020
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Theatre



disconnect

**Virtual Theatre Project 2020
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Department of Theatre**

PRESENTS

DISCONNECT

Link to the Virtual Performance @ 7:30pm CST
bit.ly/TheatreUAB

Written by
Lee Shackelford & the Collective

the Collective

Isabel Behr
Bailey Dumlao
Briana Hernandez
Terrell Miller
Travis Settoon

Abigail Coats
Laurel Floen
TaShauna Jenkins
Mell Packard
Rachel-Marie Strazza

Matias Dupree
Devin Ty Franklin
Emma Mansour
David H. Parker
McKenna Shaw

Production Assitant
Amanda Waller

Production Manager
Bailey Dumlao

Directed by
David H. Parker & Roy Lightner

CAST

Cast Members

ALEX CASTILE Isabel Behr
BLAIR MONTAIGNE Rachel-Marie Strazza
CHRIS BUCKHOLZER Travis Settoon
DALLAS KENWORTHY Matias Dupree
EMORY SHEA Emma Mansour
FRANKIE CIALORKO Devin Ty Franklin
HARPER CASTILE Laurel Floen
KENDALL TALMADGE TaShauna Jenkins
LOGAN deFOREST Terrell Miller
MAX ST. CLAIR Abigail Coats
SYDNEY WINTER McKenna Shaw
TERRY McCOY Briana Hernandez

CREW

Crew Members

CO-DIRECTOR David H. Parker
CO-DIRECTOR Roy Lightner
HEAD WRITER Lee Shackleford
PRODUCTION MANAGER Bailey Dumlao
WRITER / EDITOR Mell Packard
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Amanda Waller

WHO'S WHO

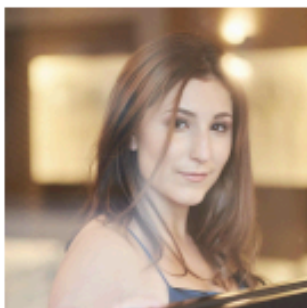


Isabel Behr

as ALEX CASTILE

Hi! I'm Isabel Behr and I would like to draw attention to Jewish Voice for Peace, an organization that stands in solidarity with Palestinians around the world. Here is their mission statement: Jewish Voice for Peace opposes anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim, and anti-Arab bigotry and oppression. JVP seeks an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; a just solution for Palestinian refugees based on principles established in international law; an end to violence against civilians; and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East.

Jewishvoiceforpeace.org



Rachel-Marie Strazza

as BLAIR MONTAIGNE

Here I am today, built on a lot of work. A lot of resilience. A lot of love. A lot further to go on my journey. I must overcome any adversity to strengthen the belief that we can be better. So let me remind you: we need each other. Whenever you're ready, I urge you to voice your love. Let those who have helped make you who you are today, know they have done so. Remember where you came from. Donate your time and love and empathy and connection to those around you. Artists will be here, always. You are- right now- the most powerful form of temporary. What are you waiting for?



Travis Settoon

as CHRIS BUCKHOLZER

It's hard to imagine what my life would have been like if I hadn't been exposed to the arts. Growing up in small town Louisiana, I didn't have access to many of the opportunities my peers may have, but I was fortunate enough to help grow my own theater community. I want to raise awareness for an organization that helps build theatre programs in schools across America. In 2015, the Educational Theatre Association created the JumpStart Theatre Program, which has helped many underdeveloped communities gain arts education for their youth. Please consider donating at

<https://educationaltheatrefoundation.org/donate/>.

WHO'S WHO



Matias Dupree

as DALLAS KENWORTHY

I'm writing in hope that this reminds you that suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in America. 43,844 Americans have died from suicide and there have been 1.4 million suicide attempts in 2018. Estimates have shown that these numbers are rising even higher this year. I want the viewers to remember that there is always help out there and there is always someone out there you can turn to. I also want people to use their words and actions wisely because you never know the effect you have on people.



Emma Mansour

as EMORY SHEA

All of us here love art, but without a healthy planet, we might not have a place to continue creating and viewing it. Right now, it is crucial to fight against climate change so that we can have a home for the future. The Climate Emergency Fund (<https://climateemergencyfund.org/>) helps donate to peaceful climate strikes happening worldwide. These strikes and marches help bring the urgency of the problem at hand to the governments' attentions. I want to encourage those who can, to donate to the Climate Emergency Fund so we can all continue to create and view art for years to come!



Briana Hernandez

as TERRY McCOY

As a member of this Collective, I am grateful for the opportunity to create art during this time and for the opportunity to bring Terry's story to life as a fellow social media fanatic myself. However, as fun as it can be, you and I both know the toll that social media can take on our mental health. Mental Health America is a nonprofit organization that is "dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness and promoting the overall mental health of all." Their website (<https://www.mhanational.org/>) is full of information on mental health; how to recognize it, how to help, how to donate. Please consider perusing the site and even making a donation of your own. Thank you for tuning into our show!

WHO'S WHO



Laurel Floen

as HARPER CASTILE

Today, our population is fed what they want to hear through the media, and it only helps to divide this country. I was lucky to be raised in a household where I was taught to think for myself and defend what's right, but not everyone had that privilege. You have to do some digging to find the truth, but I'll help get you started:<https://apnews.com/>. Associated Press is known for avoiding all the drama that attracts most viewers on the main news channels and jumps straight to the facts. But don't take my word for it! Go do your own research! Once we find the truth or get as close as we can to it, we can use it as common ground and start to rebuild and heal our society.



Terrell Miller

as LOGAN deFOREST

Do not question yourself. If you have a passion, then go for it. Embody it. Breathe it. There will be times where people will try to deter you, question you, or even dismantle you. Rise above this and do what you truly love to do. We only get one life and while others have failed to live out their passion, you must not make the same mistake. Live your life the way you want to live it. The world is full of opportunities but only if you choose to see them.



McKenna Shaw

as SYDNEY WINTER

I have loved every aspect of theatre, quite literally, my entire life. I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life. I have, in large part, my father to thank for this undying love. Director by trade, retired actor, and self-described "mover", he has molded me into the performer I am today. He always told me he would be sitting front row at my very first college show and my very first Broadway show. Terminal cancer -- Glioblastoma -- has put a wrench in our plans. I never thought I would thank a global pandemic, but, because of COVID and virtual streaming, my dad will be able to watch my first collegiate performance. This one is for you, Dad. Thank you and I love you.
www.give.supportbarrow.org

WHO'S WHO



Devin Ty Franklin

as FRANKIE CIALORKO

I grew up believing only white people were interesting because those were the people given complexity on screen. I now know that my dark brown skin accompanies my humanity—rather than diminishing it. Black stories matter, and they're needed. That's why I'm shouting out the Art Hoe Collective: an online space that showcases the lives that are frequently dismissed. Follow them on Instagram @arthoecollective



TaShauna Jenkins

as KENDALL TALMADGE

I'm honored to be a part of a show that tell stories about multifaceted people; that shows the human experience and values each character with equity. I want to dedicate my bio to the Black Lives Matter movement- specifically to Black women and Black trans folk. Those like Tony McDade and Oluwatoyin Salau, whose stories don't get illuminated until tragedy strikes. As we tell the stories of these characters tonight, I hope we encourage you to seek out the stories of those who don't get put on a stage like ours. Not only to memorialize them in death, but to fight for them in life as well.



Abigail Coats

as MAX ST. CLAIR

Together We Rise is a non-profit organization run by young adults and former foster care youth. They work to improve the lives of children in foster care and fight for a better future for children who age out of foster care. The organization fights for regular inspections of foster homes and foster parents, and provides resources to children in foster care to help improve their future quality of life. 20% of the children who age out of foster care every year instantly become homeless. Yearly, about 25% of children who age out of the foster care system do not finish high school, and after aging out of foster care, there is less than a 3% chance of that child getting a college degree. Together We Rise works to keep these children from becoming these terrifying statistics. Visit togetherwerise.org to learn more and donate.

CREW WHO'S WHO



David H. Parker

CO-DIRECTOR

In a year mostly devoid of theatrical production due to the global pandemic, we must remember those that were taken from us too early; those who can no longer join us in our makeshift digital orchestra seating; those who can no longer turn to the theatre for laughs to lick their wounds. We push forward despite being ill prepared and unprotected by the same government that claims to have our best interests in mind without the commitment to prove it. I am donating my bio to this project, which is an ode, a hymn, a dedication to lungs that may no longer breathe, but are given breath vicariously through our fight for artistic and social liberation. Theatre is the catalyst to change and healing; the process begins whenever you decide to join the fight. Thank you for offering your time and attention to our search for peace and joy.



Roy Lightner

CO-DIRECTOR

This show explores multiple facets of mental health and addiction issues surrounding college students. The stigma and discrimination around mental health issues can delay or impede an individual from seeking help or treatment. If you are suffering, feel isolated, feel alone, experiencing depression or anxiety - know you are not alone. I am here. We are here. Please reach out. www.uab.edu/uabcare

This show is for "the Collective" and Theatre UAB. Let it be a reminder that you are valued; your artistic voice matters; your creative ideas are important; your worldview is the fuel for the future; YOU are important; YOU are enough. The world needs what you have to give, so never stop giving it. It is an honor to co-learn and create with you. This project is for you. I've got your back, always.

CREW WHO'S WHO



Lee Shackelford

HEAD WRITER

In this, our *annus horribilis*, I've often felt powerless, silenced by the unending disaster-factory of these times. I have assumed many of us - all of us? -- have felt the same. Then Roy, wonderful and brilliant Roy, brought us the antidote: a project in which a group of artists could create together, dare to reach for a dizzying new height of our art, and amplify often-suppressed voices, all at the same time. So I was invited into the process of doing precisely what I love most in life, and what I feel is the most important work of all: *using the power of storytelling to promote empathy, understanding, and compassion.*

What is the story you will tell, years from now, of this time?



Bailey Dumlao

PRODUCTION MANAGER

I was drawn to this art form because I could see myself in those onstage, and I believe everyone deserves that opportunity. Elevate underrepresented voices and increase accessibility!

<https://www.weseeyouwat.com/>

<http://www.naatco.org>

<http://www.aapacnyc.org/>

<https://stateraarts.org/trans-nonbinary-resources>



Mell Packard

WRITER / EDITOR

"A semicolon is used when an author could've chosen to end their sentence, but chose not to. The author is you and the sentence is your life" - Project Semicolon

Taking part in this project has been one of the highlights of my creative career, and being able to participate in it has been a blessing I easily could have missed out on. It is because of mental health treatment that I not only am able to be part of The Collective, but that I am here at all. Please support Project Semicolon Inc. and International OCD Foundation.



Amanda Waller

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Believe Survivors

<https://donate.rainn.org/donate> <https://www.nsvrc.org/donate>

<https://donate.nomore.org/give/281014/#!/donation/checkout>

http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_hireus.html

THE KENNEDY CENTER



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by
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Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WORK of the Collective

Isabel Behr - Writer / Editor / Actor / TikTok / Tweeter
Abigail Coats - Writer / Actor / Vocalist / TikTok / Tweeter
Matias Dupree - Writer / Actor / TikTok / Tweeter
Bailey Dumlao - Production Manager / Editor / Stream God / Writer / Camera Opp
Laurel Floen - Songwriter "Fluff Song" / Actor / TikTok / Tweeter
Devin Ty Franklin - Songwriter "No Fallacy" / Choreographer / Actor / Dancer / TikTok
Briana Hernandez - Finale Director / Editor / Actor / TikTok / Tweeter
TaShauna Jenkins - Actor / TikTok / Tweeter
Roy Lightner - Co-Director / Drone Pilot / Camera Opp / Editor / Head Cheerleader
Emma Mansour - Editor / Actor / TikTok / Tweeter
Terrell Miller - Music Production "No Fallacy" & "Fluff Song" / Lyricist / Vocalist / Tweeter / TikTok
Mell Packard - Writer / Editor / Scene Director / Media Curator / Marketing & Web Developer
David H Parker - Co-Director / Songwriter "No Fallacy" / Camera Opp / Writer / Trailer Creator
Travis Settoon - Actor / Tweeter / TikTok
Lee Shackelford - Head Writer / Color Wall Designer / Trailer Editor / Twitter Animation
McKenna Shaw - Editor / Actor / Dancer / TikTok / Tweeter
Rachel-Marie Strazza - Choreographer / Editor / Vocalist "Home" / TikTok / Writer

Problem Solving Crew

Kelly Allison
Ed Zuckerman
David Page

Special Thanks to:

Marc Quattlebaum - Shea Glenn - Red Cat - Sadie Farmer - Carolyn Violi - Nina Ballon - Eric Strazza - Dr. Brian K. Cocke - CAS IT - Shannon Thomason - Mathew Wade - Chris Long - Obie Long - Ty Kendrick - Finley Beck

for Marlene Johnson

Link to the Virtual Performance

bit.ly/TheatreUAB

END NOTES

A Note from a Co-Director

When the pandemic hit in March, I watched the industry I have devoted my life to crumble to the ground. Shows were cancelled, productions halted, live performance ended, TV shows ceased filming. I watched major players in the theatre industry close shops, furlough employees, cut salaries, or shutter their doors indefinitely. At Theatre UAB we have had to cancel over five productions, and countless public performances.

The theatre went dark.

Because of this, I found myself growing dark. The creativity inside, the force that keeps me going, was extinguished. However, a remaining ember took roots in the soil of the ashes. And that idea is what you will witness tonight.

I knew that I was not alone in my darkness. If I was feeling this way, I knew others must be as well. With the unwavering support of Kelly Allison, Cliff Simon, and Lee Shackleford – the idea of a virtual theatre project began to grow.

I did not want to put a script that existed for the stage into the virtual world. I wanted to create something FOR the virtual platforming. Knowing that theatre, without a doubt is a collaborative art form; I realized that at the core of what I wanted to create sat multiple voices. Multiple creators. Thus came “the Collective”, and I became a WE.

We embarked on this journey with two weeks of interviews, writing prompts, and conversations amongst “the Collective” via Zoom and with two rules. 1) Obey at all times CDC regulations of masking and social distancing and 2) Create something that never existed before.

And that, is what we did. Tonight, you will witness the voices of “the Collective”. The stories WE wanted to tell and the way WE wanted to tell them. Working truly as collaborators – you will see writers - acting for the first time, actors – who dipped their hands in writing, original songs, choreography creations, website branding, video editing, and creations across social media platforms. Everything was created by this group of artists.

The whole collective has gone above and beyond with their work on this production, yet let it be known that David H. Parker, Bailey Dumlao, and Lee Shackleford are the bedrock to which this production stands.

So may tonight give you a respite from the isolating cold; a glimmer of light from a flame that still is burning, even in the darkest of nights.

Art matters. Amplification of underrepresented voices matters. Black Lives Matter. You matter.

This production is dedicated to Marlene Johnson; our teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend. You will be dearly missed.

~ Roy Lightner