
MR. BURNS

A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY

By Anne Washburn

Music by Michael Friedman Lyrics by Anne Washburn
Produced with special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

ACT I: The very near future

10 min. intermission

ACT II: 7 years later

10 min. intermission

ACT III: 75 years later

Warning: There are loud gunshots and use of prop guns

MR. BURNS

CAST

Matt

Jenny

Maria

Sam

Colleen

Gibson

Quincy

Mr. Burns

Bart

Marge

Homer

Lisa

Dalton Cook

Amelia Enix

Anna Bacon

Zach Denton

Audrey Smith

Thomas Meadows

Claire Crenshaw

Mitchell Carmack

Warren Griggs

Hayley Johnson

Wyatt Farr

Bayley Waters

CHORUS

Alexandra Basin

Brandon Caires

Anoop Dharmendrakumar

Jer'Howard Paige

Eli Salajka

Yingren Wang

Chris Wilson

MUSICIANS

Richard Dent

Noah Kyle

Bobby Parks

Kyle Thede

Becca Westbrook

UNDERSTUDIES

Alexandra Basin

Eli Salajka

CREATIVE TEAM

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Director | Karen Baker |
| Producer | David Harwell |
| Stage Manager | Taylor Rowe |
| Assistant Director | Laura Martin |
| Sound Specialist | Johnna Doty |
| Musical Director | Zoe Bofill |
| Set Design | Alex Hillgartner |
| Master Carpenter | Luke Shirley |
| Lighting Design | Travis Craft |
| Master Electrician/Light Board Op. | JD Meyer |
| Props | Davis Walker |
| Assistant Props | Carolyn Nix |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Kelly Parks |
| Assistant Stage Manager | Julia Backmann |
| Student Costume Designer | Angel Monk |
| Student Sound Designer | Chris Wilson |
| Assistant Sound Designer/Sound Board Op. | Whitney Leonard |
| Rehearsal Arrangements | Jordan Biffle |
| Board Operator | John Molpus |
| Assistant Musical Director | Becca Westbrook |
| House Manager | Allison Kennedy |
| Marketing | Amy Guerin |
| Box Office | Donna Lamp |

Tech Crew

Gabriel Adamson, Nadia Alexander, Jordan Biffle, Miranda Bilbrey, Anna Claire Brooks, James Elkins, Gus Grow, Kelcie Meador, John Molpus, Mars Peckich, Traci Phillips, Eric Poole, Garrett Walker, Jordan Williams, and Theatre Appreciation students.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

From the Director:

What is the impulse for human beings to perform? What is the need to tell stories and act them out? Whether teaching history, supporting cultural identity, life lessons, or simply to entertain. The best long-lasting stories do all of these things. Maybe, the most important reason to tell our stories is to feel connected to one another, to serve a greater purpose.

Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play explores what happens when a group of travelers experience great tragedy and how they find common ground through the retelling of an episode of *The Simpsons*. Anne Washburn masterfully follows not just a group of people but how a culture might rebuild with the Simpsons as the basis of its new oral tradition.

We perform the version of this play that was produced in New York with Playwrights Horizons, Inc, off Broadway 2013, with the scored music by Michael Friedman and lyrics by Anne Washburn. I first read this play about four years ago and was struck by the simplicity of the idea and the complexity of the emotions the play evokes in others. I hope you enjoy this play as much as we have. I am honored and humbled by the dedication and talents of everyone involved with this project. We proudly present to you, *Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play*.

Side note about the design: I thought long and hard about the things people would have access to after a nuclear event. I challenged all the designers to scavenge for things as these people might do. Over the last ten years we have produced more plastic than during the whole of the last century. In 2016, world plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons. Roughly half of annual plastic production is destined for a single-use product. A large majority of our sets and costumes for this show are made from recycled materials from other sets and costumes. We also collected plastics, aluminum, and other materials that may have found their way to the landfill.

Karen Baker

Anne Washburn in conversation with Tim Sanford at Playwrights' Horizons about Mr. Burns:

I think the initial impulse for *Mr. Burns* came from thinking about the apocalypse, what would life be after the apocalypse, and part of that was wondering about the ways in which infrastructure choices would end up rebounding on us in a really nasty way. I think *Orestes* and Stephen King's *The Stand* in equal measure influenced me. *Orestes* is mayhem. It's one of the last tragedies before the form apparently turned into something else we don't have examples of. It's this mad and almost corrupt mash-up of the tragic and the comic and the ironic and the thriller-y, and has a more sophisticated command of tonal shift and just pure bravura entertainment than any contemporary play or performance text I know. *The Stand* is a vast book I really adore. I first read it when I was 16 and have re-read it a number of times since; the first half—where civilization falls apart and the few people to remain struggle to negotiate this new landscape—is especially fun and the first act, especially, is very influenced by it.

Also, both the *Cape Fears* are deeply scary movies about a relentless predator who isn't constrained by civilized behavior. The "Cape Feare" episode is a very funny one, and Sideshow Bob is a cranky clown, but the underlying tension remains: someone wants to kill you, for reasons of his own, and nothing can stop him, society can't protect you; no one will rescue you, even though you're just a child. It's a primal fear, and one which would be pretty consuming, I think, after an apocalypse; too consuming to take on directly; the episode doesn't just divert you from your fears, it actually takes them on in a way which is so circumspect as to be manageable. And then, even before we had the "Cape Feare" episode I knew I wanted the third act to be a big musical event; the fact that "Cape Feare" ends with Sideshow Bob performing all of *HMS Pinafore* (with Bart, his captive, joining in, bizarrely) seems oddly perfect.

Regarding the third act, it's probably only now that they're able to make their own stories, much in the way that it took people a long time to talk about the Holocaust. You know, the people who really went through all that wouldn't try to make art out of what they had seen or experienced. In fact they probably couldn't; it's too horrifying, it's too comprehensive, everyone is still too touched by it to speak about it directly. It would probably be their kids who would first take some of these old stories, these cartoon tellings which might have fallen out of use, and pick them up again to start talking about that time. Maybe 100 years after that they'll start to do realistic plays in which they imagine people who speak as you and I do and not in verse and not through song, describing people coping with the events immediately after the apocalypse. I'm not sure which way of telling the story I'd prefer.

CAST



DALTON COOK – MATT

Dalton is a Sophomore pursuing a Mechanical Engineering degree. He is looking forward to diving into his first lead role in a college production as Matt. He would like to thank the entire UAH Theatre department for supporting him through his lighting job in *Twelfth Night* and his understudy role in *N3RD* before this production.



AMELIA ENIX – JENNY

Amelia Enix is a junior at UAH pursuing a Theatre major with an emphasis in performance. She most recently fulfilled the role of Feste the Fool in Huntsville Shakespeare's professional production of *Twelfth Night*. She is best known for playing the roles of Jane in *'Dentity Crisis* and Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera* with UAH Theatre. She has also appeared in *Dr. Faustus* and *The Music Man*. She sends love and thanks to her friends and family for their never-ending support.



ANNA BACON – MARIA

Anna is excited to be a part of the *Mr. Burns* cast and to have her first acting role with UAH Theater. She is a BFA: Animation major but has worked in previous UAH production as an ASM on *Shakespeare's R&J* and *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*. She has also worked as a costume designer for Huntsville Shakes' production of *Twelfth Night*. Anna would like to thank the cast and crew of the theater for all of their dedication and hard work as well as her family and friends for their love and support



ZACH DENTON – SAM

Zach is a freshman at UAH who is currently studying in computer science. He is excited to play the part of Sam in *Mr. Burns*.



AUDREY SMITH – COLLEEN

Audrey is a current student at The University of Alabama in Huntsville pursuing a degree in Mechanical Engineering. This is her first performance here at UAH. Audrey has participated in musicals and chorus at her high school, as well as multiple drama categories at the National Fine Arts Festival through her church. She would like to thank her parents for always supporting her in everything she does.



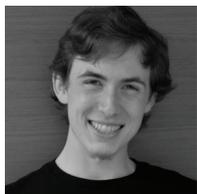
THOMAS MEADOWS – GIBSON

Thomas is a Junior pursuing a Biology major and Chemistry minor, excited to make his college acting debut in this performance in the part of Gibson. His previous experience includes singing with a local choir for 15 years and assorted high school productions. He would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support.



CLAIRE CRENSHAW – QUINCY

Claire is a senior theatre major at UAH and is excited to be a part of *Mr. Burns!* Previous favorite roles include Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Student 2 (Juliet, Benvolio) in *Shakespeare's R&J*, and Vicki in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*. She wants to thank Karen for this opportunity. As always, thank you Mom and Dad for your unconditional love and support.



MITCHELL CARMACK – MR. BURNS

Mitchell is a freshman at UAH pursuing a career in computer science with a concentration in entertainment computing. He has also performed as Gomez in *The Addams Family* and six years of men's choir. He wants to thank his parents and family for introducing him to and encouraging his value of the performing arts.





WARREN GRIGGS – BART

This is Warren's first performance at UAH. He has performed before with his high school theater company at Hoover High School. His past roles include Uncle Fester in *The Addams Family*, Mr. Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*, and Mr. Gatch in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He is very excited for his first production at UAH.



HAYLEY JOHNSON – MARGE

Hayley is a freshman at UAH, seeking a double major in Secondary Education and Theatre. This is her first show in over a year, and she is glad that she could be a part of this one. She looks forward to being involved in more shows at UAH in the future. She would like to thank her fiancé and her family for the love and support that they have given her, as well as her fiancé's family for everything that they have done. She is so glad to have gotten an opportunity to be a part of the Theatre department at UAH, as well as make so many amazing friends.



WYATT FARR – HOMER

Wyatt is pleased to be participating in this production of *Mr. Burns*. Wyatt's past roles include Maria in *Twelfth Night*, J.J. Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera*, Bobby Strong in *Urinetown*, Frank the Bellhop in *Lend Me a Tenor*, Ali Hakim in *Oklahoma*, as well as ensemble roles in productions of *Suessical*, *Carnival*, *The King and I*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Wizard of Oz*. Wyatt also performs as a member of the Blue-Plate Special improv comedy troupe, and is frequently seen as his alter ego, Dinah Loneliness, at local drag shows.



BAYLEY WATERS – LISA

Bayley is a second-year nursing student who is pursuing a graduate degree to be a nurse practitioner. She has always been involved in theatre from high school to this showing of *Mr. Burns*. Theatre has always been a love for her and she is excited to be performing this play for you.





YINGREN WANG – CHORUS

Yingren is from China and has been here for almost three and half years. She is a junior majoring in Computer Science. Although she is not a theater major, she really likes to try and learn how to perform because she has found acting attractive since high school. It is amazing to experience different lives while acting as another person, and she considers acting a gift to have a chance to express herself in front of people. *Mr. Burns* is actually the first play she has ever been in. Thanks go to her family, friends, professors, actors/actresses, and crew of *Mr. Burns* for letting her be in and supporting her being in this show. It is a great honor, and she is sure it will become an indelible part of her college life.



JER'HOWARD PAIGE – CHORUS

Jer'Howard is a freshman at The University of Alabama in Huntsville pursuing a major in Theatre. He played the role of Donkey in his high school's production of *Shrek: The Musical* during his senior year and also performed in other outside works of plays. His love for theatre has grown since he was introduced to public speaking at a young age, and then continued as he entered university. He is excited to be part of this production and working with his fellow colleagues as they bring this production to the main stage.



BRANDON CAIRES – CHORUS

Brandon is a Sophomore at The University of Alabama in Huntsville pursuing a degree in computer engineering. He played the role of Reverend Kimball in *The Threepenny Opera* for the university. He was born in Tacoma, Washington and has traveled most of his life to include Michigan, Texas, Germany and more. He loves the experience of learning about new cultures and that is to include the theatre lifestyle.



CHRISTOPHER WILSON – SOUND DESIGN / CHORUS

Chris is a senior at The University of Alabama in Huntsville pursuing a dual degree in Biological Sciences and Theatre. He also works at the UAH Music Department as a Student Worker. This will be Chris's first time to both act and design sound for a production. In the past, Chris has helped sound in such productions as *The Medium*, *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, and *Twelfth Night*. As an actor, Chris has performed in *'Dentity Crisis* and *The Threepenny Opera* as Tiger Brown. He would like to thank his family, friends and mentors for all of their undying support.



ANOOP DHARMENDRAKUMAR – CHORUS

Anoop is an international student from India studying Theatre and Music at The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). He is a hip-hop and ballet dancer and trains at the Huntsville Ballet Company. He is also an actor combatant certified under the Society of American Fight Directors (SAFD). He has recently finished working at Unto These Hills Outdoor Drama, a professional summer stock, and some of his current projects include, UAH Concert Choir and *The Nutcracker* by Huntsville Ballet. He is thankful for his parents back home, his instructors and professors at the theatre and music department at UAH, teachers and fellow students at the Huntsville Ballet Company, and his friends for their support and belief in him.



NOAH KYLE – MUSICIAN

Noah is a newly minted UAH theatre major, with this being his first semester being in the major field. He has played varied roles, such as Festus in *Tales of Cricket County* (2014), Witch #2 in *Macbeth* (2018), Doug in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom* (2018), and Fabian in *Twelfth Night*. Noah is excited to play a major musical role in such a wonderful show. He would like to thank his parents in supporting him in this unexpected turn of his life.



KYLE THEDE – MUSICIAN

A graduate of UAH, Kyle's performances at the university include the 2014 productions of *Anything Goes*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, and Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, as well as the fall 2010 production of *The Dining Room* and Charger Theatre Club's fall 2013 reading of *Election Day*. Enjoy the show!



BOBBY PARKS – MUSICIAN

Bobby is an after school teacher for Alexander's Martial Arts. Previously, he's been in UAH Theatre's *The Laramie Project* (2015), and *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow* (2016). Bobby is excited to be back in theatre working with such a wonderful cast and crew.



RICHARD DENT – MUSICIAN

Richard Dent is excited to perform as a musician. He previously played Sebastian in *Twelfth Night* as part of the Inaugural production of Huntsville Shakespeare Festival. He is so grateful to be part of this production and would like to thank his friends and family for their consistent support.



BECCA WESTBROOK – ASSISTANT MUSICAL DIRECTOR/MUSICIAN

Becca is a Sophomore at UAH, and is majoring in Theatre and Writing. She has performed in many UAH Theatre productions, some of her favorite roles being Student 4 (Nurse/Tybalt/Balthazar) in *Shakespeare's R&J* and Leslie in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*. Becca was also a member of the Summer 2018 Huntsville Shakespeare Company, acting in both *Twelfth Night* and the staged reading of *Macbeth*.



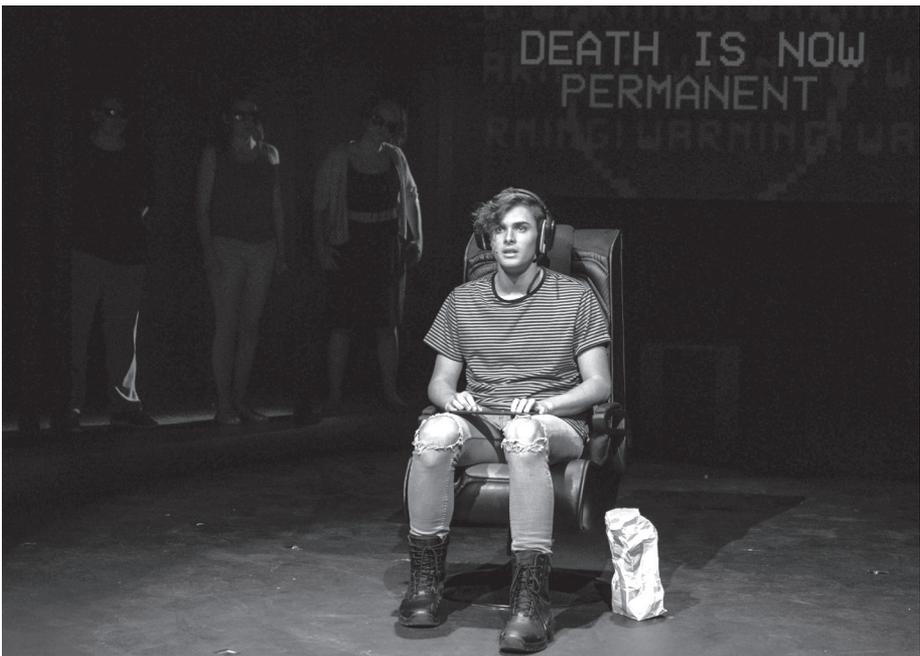
ALEXANDRA BASIN – CHORUS/FEMALE UNDERSTUDY

Alexandra is a freshman at UAH pursuing an Optical Engineering major. She has always been interested in theatre, especially Shakespearean plays and the writing behind it.



ELI SALAJKA – CHORUS/MALE UNDERSTUDY

Eli Salajka is a freshman pursuing a history major and theatre minor. He's been acting for three years since getting involved in theatre and high school. He's thrilled to be a part of UAH and have this first opportunity to understudy!



Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

Spring 2018 - UAH Theatre

CREATIVE TEAM



KAREN BAKER – DIRECTOR

Karen is a Full Time Professor at UAH. She received her MFA in Directing from The University of Alabama. Some of her favorite projects include: *The Threepenny Opera*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Eurydice*, *City of Angels*, *Children of Eden*, and *Fefu and her Friends*. She would like to thank her husband Chris for all his love and support.



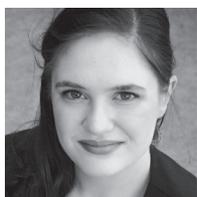
DAVID HARWELL – PRODUCER

David is a Huntsville native and the Director of the Theatre Program at UAH. He received his BFA in theatre at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in scene design from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana. After many years of working in professional theater, he returned to Huntsville and started teaching at UAH in 2005. He is grateful for his colleagues and students who share their deep love of the theatre and who risk it all to pursue this thrilling, dangerous and life-changing work.



TAYLOR ROWE – STAGE MANAGER

Taylor Rowe is a sophomore who made her debut at UAH this past academic year. She is credited in UAH's productions *The Threepenny Opera* as the assistant stage manager and *Shakespeare's R&J* as the stage manager. She is also credited as the assistant stage manager for Huntsville Ballet Company's production of *The Nutcracker* in 2017 and their production of *Cinderella* earlier this year. Taylor told the director, Karen Baker, many months ago that she would kill to work on this monster of a show. Luckily, no deaths were needed for this desire to come true.



LAURA MARTIN – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Laura is a recent UAH graduate with her Bachelor of Arts in both English and Theatre. She has worked with UAH theatre on many productions as an Assistant Stage Manager, Stage Manager, and actor. She was seen most recently as Student 1 (Romeo) in *Shakespeare's R&J* and Joy in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*. Laura has recently returned from her summer job in New York with Stagedoor Manor, where she worked as a camp counselor and ASM on *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Mary Poppins*, *West Side Story*, and *On the Town*. She would like to thank UAH Theatre for the opportunity to work with them on such a challenging show and for the continued love and support from her family and friends.



JOHNNA DOTY – SOUND DESIGNER

Johnna is a Lecturer for the Theatre Program and Director of Music Technology for the Music Department at UAH. Her work as a Sound Designer and Composer has been heard Off-Broadway and in Regional Theatres throughout the country. Johnna was a freelance sound designer and an associate professor at the Borough of Manhattan Community College before returning to her home state of Alabama. She has enjoyed composing and designing sound for UAH Theatre for over ten years.



Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

Spring 2018 - UAH Theatre



ZOE BOFILL – MUSIC DIRECTOR

Zoe is a senior theatre major at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. Her previous work with UAH Theatre includes Orsino in *Twelfth Night*, Streetsinger in *The Threepenny Opera*, and Fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This is her first opportunity to serve the theatre as music director. She would like to thank her professors for their guidance and unwavering support.



ALEXANDER HILLGARTNER – SET DESIGNER

Alexander is a theatre major at UAH. His field of study is in projection and lighting. He has done lighting for past UAH performances such as *Grounded* and *The Threepenny Opera*. Alexander is grateful for all the resources and personal training he's received from the UAH faculty and staff. He looks forward to more productions at UAH.



LUKE SHIRLEY – MASTER CARPENTER

Luke is a sophomore at UAH pursuing a bachelor's degree in Theatre. He has recently come aboard this program, and feels very privileged to be a part of it. This is his first production with UAH Theatre and he feels confident in the future of the program and his position in it. He would like to thank his family and friends for supporting him throughout his journey, and hopes you enjoy the show.



TRAVIS CRAFT – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Travis is a theatre major and junior this year. This is his second semester with UAH, where he has worked on *Grounded* and *The Threepenny Opera*. He transferred from Calhoun Community College. He would like to thank his parents for all their support.





JD MAYER – MASTER ELECTRICIAN/LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR

JD came from Virginia to study theater at UAH. This is his first semester and his first production working with UAH Theatre. He is excited for what the future will bring.



DAVIS WALKER – PROP MASTER

Davis Walker is a senior attending UAH. He is studying for a theatre major with a technical emphasis. Some of his previous technical credits include *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Proof*, and *The Medium*. His extracurricular interests include miniature painting, video gaming, and all things outdoors. He is excited to participate in yet another of UAH's productions, and is exceedingly grateful for the opportunities the department has afforded him to excel.



CAROLYN NIX – ASSISTANT PROP ARTIST

Carolyn is a freshman at UAH this fall. She worked behind the scenes for her high school in theatre, and has now made the transition to her very first college performance. She couldn't be more excited that her first backstage role is as Assistant Props for *Mr. Burns!*



KELLY PARKS – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Kelly is a Theatre major with an English minor. She has a deep appreciation for all aspects of theatre, which grows more with each production. *Mr. Burns* is her first show as an assistant stage manager. Kelly has worked as a light crew member for *Shakespeare's R&J*, assistant scenic designer for Huntsville Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and IATSE crew member at the VBC. She would like to thank her family and friends for their continued love and support of her and her dreams.





JULIA BACKMANN– ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Julia is thrilled to take part in the production of *Mr. Burns*. From a young age, she had a nagging curiosity for theatre but lacked the courage to entertain it. Upon beginning her freshman year at UAH she decided to finally explore her childhood interest in theatre in her first play -- *Mr. Burns*. Having participated in all types of performance except theatre arts, Julia is eager to learn from the talented cast and crew, and is grateful for the opportunity to take on her first role in such a unique play.



ANGEL MONK – STUDENT COSTUMER

Angel is a junior at UAH Theatre majoring in Theatre. This is her second production that she has had the opportunity to work on. Her main interests are involved in costuming, and she is really excited to get to take on this project. This will be her first-time costuming for the theatre.



WHITNEY LEONARD – ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER/ SOUND BOARD OPERATOR

Whitney has done tech theatre for *The Addam's Family*, *Wonderland High*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Charlie Brown's Christmas*, and spotlight for *Nunsense*. She enjoys reading and playing with her dog.



JOHN MOLPUS - BOARD OPERATOR

John Molpus is from Franklin, Tennessee. He is an electrical engineering major and is interested in lighting and electronics.



ALLISON KENNEDY – HOUSE MANAGER

Allison is a current mechanical engineering major at UAH. She has been involved in many theatre productions from performing as an actress to assisting in stage management and even directing her own show. Alli would like to thank her family and friends for supporting her and her previous director Amanda Rumbaugh for teaching her everything she knows.

SPECIAL THANKS

Carl Bonebright
Mark Hillgartner
Alex Lopez-Rogina
Kelly McGill
Cindy Norton
Tammy Norton
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Dr. Pavica Sheldon
Dr. Clarke Rountree

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PRODUCER

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Mr. Robert F. Harwell, Sr.

DIRECTOR

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Altman
Mr. and Mrs. Todd R. Howard
Mr. Walter S. King, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David Meigs
Ms. Emily Vandiver and Mr. Robert Lane

CAST

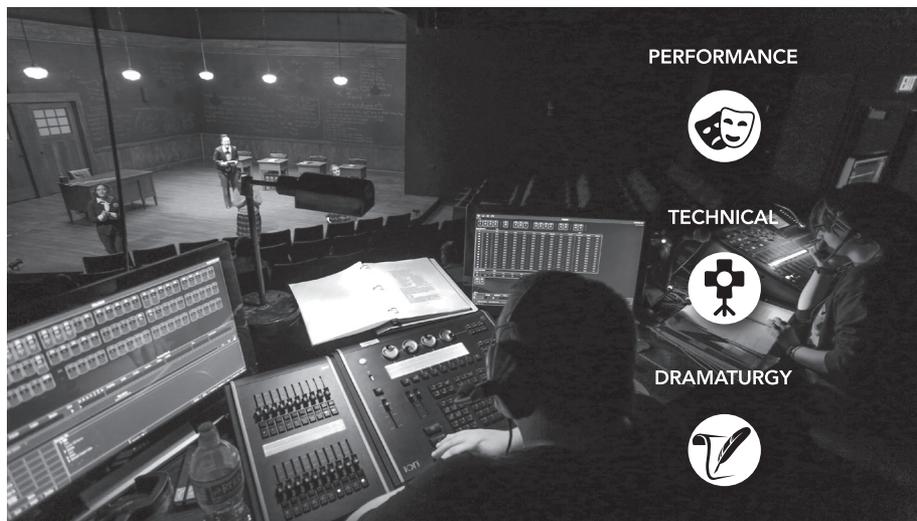
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Mr. Christopher Andrew Rodie

CHORUS

Mrs. Katherine H. Biggs

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ABOUT UAH THEATRE



UAH Theatre is an entrepreneurial, pre-professional training program that works to put you in charge of your career within the entertainment industry. Our curriculum is based on making you an artist who can create your own opportunities, rather than waiting for jobs to find you. We are a small, but actively growing program, and because of that, our majors aren't sectioned off into "actors only," "designers only," "stage managers only," etc. UAH Theatre majors learn how to be good at everything, which means you have maximum employability once you graduate. Our majors also start working from the first semester of their freshman year--no grad students, or 150 other theatre majors, to compete with.

UAH Theatre produces four plays a season, including a musical, and we collaborate very closely with the UAH Music Department. Our curriculum for majors includes 39 hours--24 hours of core courses, 9 hours of an emphasis (design/technology, performance, or dramaturgy), and 6 hours of electives. We also offer a minor that encompasses 24 hours of core courses and electives.

As a program, we function like a company, with everyone working together on each production, and class sizes are small and student-centered. We take pride in being on a first-name basis with each other.

Scholarships are available and there is a competitive application process that happens at the start of each school year.

Would you like to know more about being a Theatre major or minor at UAH? Email us at theatre@uah.edu, or check out our website at uah.edu/theatre.



uahtheatre