

UAH Theatre presents...

# SHE KILLS MONSTERS VIRTUAL REALMS

WRITTEN BY QUI NGUYEN

DIRECTED BY AMY GUERIN



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

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# **SHE KILLS MONSTERS: VIRTUAL REALMS**

By Qui Nguyen

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**SETTING:** *Athens, Ohio, in the real world and the fantasy world of New Landia.*

**TIME:** *2019 and 2020*

**SHOW LENGTH:** *Approximately 90 minutes with no intermission*

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# SKM: VIRTUAL REALMS

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## CAST (in alphabetical order)

Lilith	Melissa Anderson
Evil Gabbi	Seth D'Avignon
Vera	Amelia Enix
The Great Mage Steve	Josiah Gomez
Chuck	Warren Griggs
Tilly	Gail Hetherington
Orcus	Elliot Jackson
Kaliope	Miles Jones
Farrah	Ardria Jewel McDonald
Narrator	Bakari Prigg
Evil Tina	Destiny Steele
Miles	Anoop Surya
Agnes	Becca Westbrook

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director	Amy Guerin
Producer/Set Designer	David Harwell
Assistant Director	Clayton Harris
Stage Manager	Garland Borowski
Assistant Stage Manager	Carolyn Nix
Animation Team Supervisor	Vinny Argentina
Animation Team	Chase Harbin
	Aubrey Northam
	Caroline Shaw
	Gabriel Smith
	Heather Baumbach
Costume Designer	Traci Phillips
Assistant Costume Designer/Wardrobe Head	Alex Haynes
Assistant Costume Designer/ Hair & Makeup Design	Hayley Johnson
Dramaturg	Anoop Surya
Fight Choreographer	Jackson Gray
Lighting Design	Jesse Hendricks
Marketing	Madison Schwandt
Props	Whitney Leonard
Sound Designer	Karen Baker
Supervising Stage Manager	

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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*I first read about the playwright Qui Nguyen, and his (now defunct) theatre company Vampire Cowboys ten years ago in American Theatre magazine. Nguyen and VC director Robert Ross Parker were apparently packing in the audiences in a grungy theatre in downtown Manhattan, presenting plays based on Nguyen's love of all things geek--D&D, Sci-Fi, Kung Fu movies, comic books, and badass chicks being badass. They had their own fight choreography school and were making space for themselves in a theatre world that didn't always know what to do with geeks. As a geek myself (I'm a proud Whedonverse fangirl), I started reading every Qui Nguyen play I could find. 10 years on, and Nguyen's work is produced around the country, while he writes for Marvel, the best PBS kids cartoon about math ever, Peg + Cat (a favorite in my house when my daughter was younger), and wins awards writing new plays about his parents and their immigration story from Vietnam to America. Not to worry, though, his new family dramas include ninja fights.*

*She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms is an edition of his play She Kills Monsters that Nguyen adapted specifically to be performed online. I read about this new edition in late July, on a Sunday, in the New York Times, bought and read the play that same day, and was ready to get to work immediately on bringing this play, about family, loss, and Dungeons and Dragons, to life on Zoom. Online theatre has been weird, challenging, hilarious, and an opportunity to stretch creativity to its limit. I can't wait for you to join us on our quest. Thank you for being a part of this new frontier in theatre.*

*It is my privilege to be a part of this company and my honor to present our work to you.*

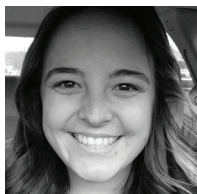
*Special thanks to the Tiny Cheese Gang for the encouragement and to MJC: super tremendous.*

*For Killian Brooke, my joyful heart.*

Amy Guerin  
Director

# THE CAST

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## MELISSA ANDERSON – LILITH

Melissa is a Mechanical Design Engineer at Dynetics and a part time mechanical engineering grad student here at UAH. Last year she got the chance to be an Assistant Stage Manager for *Hurricane Diane* and she is so excited to be acting again for the first time since high school. She is incredibly thankful to the wonderful cast and crew who have made her Huntsville acting debut so wonderful and a big thank you goes to her wonderful family and friends who support her escaping the world of math for a little while.



## SETH D'AVIGNON – EVIL GABBI

Seth is a Sophomore at UAH majoring in Theatre and minoring in psychology. This is his first performance he has worked with UAH. He is very appreciative of this chance to work with the UAH Theatre.



## AMELIA ENIX – VERA

Amelia is a recent UAH graduate with a BA in Theatre performance. Amelia has played several lead roles with UAH, including Jane in *'Dentity Crisis*, Polly Peachum in *The Threepenny Opera*, and Andromache in *The Trojan Women*. She also performed as Feste the Fool in *Twelfth Night*, part of Huntsville Shakespeare's inaugural season. Amelia would like to extend her gratitude to her husband for his endless love and support as she pursues her acting career.



## JOSIAH GOMEZ – THE GREAT MAGE STEVE

Josiah Gomez is a freshman aerospace engineering major. This is his first show with UAH and he is very grateful for the opportunity to perform. His roles before UAH include 'Mayor Shinn' in *Music Man*, 'Gilbert Blythe' in *Anne of Green Gables*, 'Professor Henry Higgins' in *My Fair Lady*, and 'George Bailey' in *It's a Wonderful Life*. He would like to thank all those who he has been lucky enough to act alongside and have pushed him to improve.



### **WARREN GRIGGS – CHUCK**

Warren is currently in his junior year. His previous roles include Bart Simpson in *Mr. Burns*, Actor M in *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*, Mr. Renaud in *La Cage Aux Folles*, and Dead Body Boy in *TempOdyssey*. He would like to thank his family for all their support, his girlfriend for all her love, and his roommates for encouraging him. He hopes that you enjoy the show.



### **GAIL HETHERINGTON – TILLY**

Gail is a Theatre Performance and English major at UAH. Gail's previous UAH Theatre roles include Anne in *La Cage Aux Folles* and Last Day Girl in *TempODYSSEY*. Before UAH, Gail has portrayed Calliope in *Xanadu* and Storyteller in *Once on this Island*. Gail would like to thank family and everyone from McCoy's Taekwondo America for all their support.



### **ELLIOT JACKSON – ORCUS**

Elliot is a Sophomore at UAH studying Music with a Voice concentration and Theatre with a Performance concentration. This is his second show at UAH, having previously performed as a Cagellette in *La Cage Aux Folles*. His previous roles include Rizzo in *Grease* and Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast* at Scottsboro High School as well as Bielke in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Jet's Girl in *West Side Story*, and Soldier in *Miss Saigon* at Northeast Alabama Community College. He also served as the Assistant/Music Director for Plainview High School's Bear Theatre for four years. He would like to thank those who have always believed in him, especially his girlfriend who encouraged him to perform again.

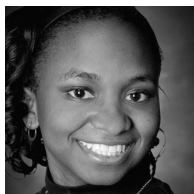


### **MILES JONES – KALIOPE**

Miles Jones is a freshman double majoring in Sociology and Theatre at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. This is their first performance with UAH theatre. They are very glad to have this opportunity to learn and grow as an actor! They would like to thank their cat for enduring the many hours away for rehearsals and would like to thank their family for their endless love and support! Miles is looking forward to a wonderful production and cannot wait to progress with the UAH theatre program.

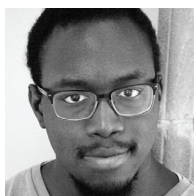
# THE CAST

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## **ARDRIA JEWEL MCDONALD – FARRAH**

Ardria is a UAH alumnus through dual enrollment in high school and is now a freshman at Fisk University, where she is dual majoring in Biology and Music. This is her first show with UAH, which she is very grateful to have been given this opportunity. She'd also like to thank her family and friends who have encouraged her to pursue her interest in theatre and giving her the opportunities of a lifetime.



## **BAKARI PRIGG – NARRATOR**

Bakari Prigg is a graduate of UAH Theatre program specializing in Theatre performance and Technical Design. He is a professional puppeteer trained by Muppeteers of Sesame Street. He is the artistic director of the puppet troupe, Under His Strings. He has had the opportunity to work at Sesame Place as a puppeteer performing Elmo, Abby, Oscar, and other characters as well as a character performer as Cookie Monster, Grover, Snuffy and other characters. Bakari has performed various roles with UAH Theatre in such productions as *I and You*, *The Threepenny Opera*, and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. He has done technical work with the production team at Oakwood University Church and Huntsville's IATSE local crew (900) for national Broadway tours such as *The Book of Mormon*, *Kinky Boots*, *Spongebob the Musical*, and *Sesame Street Live*; he has been a part of the touring crew for Shakira's El Dorado World Tour.



## **DESTINY STEELE – EVIL TINA**

Destiny Steele is a freshman at UAH, majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Acting. She is also minoring in Business. This is her first show with UAH, and she is super excited for the opportunity to be in one of the first performances of her college career. She would like to thank her parents who have always supported her dreams regardless of how crazy they might've been. She would also like to thank her other close friends and family who have shown up to all her performances and encouraged her to pursue her career in Acting.



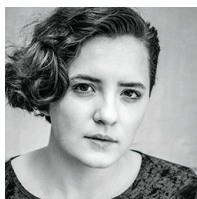
# THE CAST

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## **ANOOP SURYA – MILES**

Anoop is an international student from India. He is a senior, studying Theater and Music. He is specialized in stage combat, and certified by the Society of American Fight Directors in unarmed, knife, small sword, single sword, sword and shield, broadsword, rapier and dagger and quarterstaff stage combat. He has worked as a professional actor/dancer at the Cherokee Historical Association and has recently been part of a few local tv commercials. His other recent credits include, 'Francis/Cagelle' in *La Cage Aux Folles*, 'Tybalt' in the *Romeo and Juliet Ballet*, and 'Steve' in *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*. He is currently working on a short film by the name, *The Stepfather*, set to premiere this December.



## **BECCA WESTBROOK – AGNES**

Becca is a Senior at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, majoring in Theatre with a concentration in Performance, as well as a minor in Writing and a cognate in Dramaturgy. She is a registered Actor Combatant with the SAFD with recommended passes in Unarmed, Rapier and Dagger, and Small Sword. She was a member of the 2019 company of Unto These Hills Outdoor Drama in Cherokee, NC, and the 2018 company of Huntsville Shakespeare for their production of *Twelfth Night* and Staged Reading of *Macbeth*. Some of her recent UAH credits include Diane in *Hurricane Diane*, Hanna in *La Cage Aux Folles*, Actor B in *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again*, and Student 4 (Nurse/Tybalt) in *Shakespeare's R&J*.



# CREATIVE TEAM

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## **AMY GUERIN – DIRECTOR**

Amy Guerin is a faculty member with UAH Theatre. She previously taught at Texas A&M University. In 2009, Amy's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a collaboration with A&M's Department of Computer Science & Engineering showcasing flying fairy robots alongside human actors, was featured in Wired Magazine. She has also directed *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, *The Conduct of Life*, *Bus Stop*, *Measure for Measure*, *An Ideal Husband*, *Tartuffe*, *Machinal*, *I and You*, *Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Tempest*, and *Request Concert*. Amy received her BFA in Acting from the University of Oklahoma, and her MFA in Directing from the University of Houston.



## **DAVID HARWELL – PRODUCER/SCENIC DESIGNER**

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.

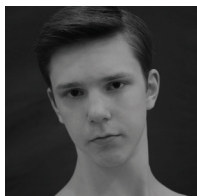


## **CLAYTON PATRICK HARRIS – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

Clayton Patrick Harris is currently a junior at UAH and is a theatre major. His goal in life is to work as a director in both stage and film. Clayton has been involved with the theatre department for quite a few years, performing as Talthybius in *The Trojan Women*, Ryan in *Neighborhood 3*, and even working wardrobe for *Request Concert*. He would like to thank his family and friends for their endless support they offer as he follows his dreams.

# CREATIVE TEAM

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## **GARLAND BOROWSKI – STAGE MANAGER**

Garland Borowski has been involved with theatre productions since he was eight years old. He performed in numerous productions ranging from plays to musicals to ballets throughout his years. He currently dances with Huntsville Ballet as a soloist. In the fall of 2018, Garland enrolled in The University of Alabama in Huntsville, and in spring of 2019 he became a theatre major with a focus in theatre technologies. Since then, he has been a set carpenter, audio second, and lighting board operator. *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* is Garland's first production to stage manager and one of his proudest accomplishments yet.



## **CAROLYN NIX – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER**

Carolyn Nix is a junior at UAH majoring in theatre. This is her sixth performance working with UAH. Other stage management roles include *The Trojan Women*, and *La Cage Aux Folles* as an Assistant Stage Manager, and *Hurricane Diane* as the Stage Manager. Carolyn has also worked as the stage manager for Huntsville Shakespeare's production of *The Tempest*, and most recently, *Hamlet* also performed on Zoom. She is excited to be a part of this unique theatre experience.



## **HEATHER BAUMBACH – COSTUME DESIGNER**

Heather holds a BFA in Costume Design from The University of North Carolina School of the Arts. She has over 20 years of design and production experience in stage, television, and film, with her credits including The Theater Outlet, The Santa Fe Opera, The Los Angeles Opera, The Cherry Lane Theatre, Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre, Renaissance Theatre, Main State Music Theatre, Center Theatre Group, Carsey-Warner Productions, and Comedy Central.

# CREATIVE TEAM

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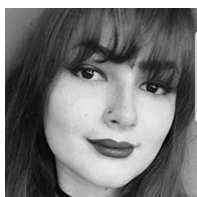
## TRACI PHILLIPS – ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Traci is delighted for the opportunity to work on such an interesting and unique show. Other notable shows she has worked on are UAH's productions of *La Cage Aux Folles* and *The Trojan Women*. She has found working on this show to be an exciting challenge, and she is grateful for the chance to help bring it to life.



## ALEX HAYNES – ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER

Alex is very excited to be working on this production with such an amazing cast and crew. They are a theatre major here at UAH and have worked on a few other productions with the school, including *La Cage Aux Folles* and *Hurricane Diane*. This is their first time designing for a show, and they are grateful for the opportunity to work with such an amazing costume shop team for it!



## HAYLEY JOHNSON – DRAMATURGY

Hayley is a junior theatre major at UAH. She is excited to assist with dramaturgy on this production. She has been seen performing in several shows here, including *La Cage Aux Folles*, *The Tempest*, *The Trojan Women*, and *Mr. Burns*. She would like to thank her friends, Noah and Warren, as well as her girlfriend Becca, for all of their love and support.



## JACKSON GRAY – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jackson Gray is a Senior at UAH pursuing a degree in Technical Theatre. He has done lighting for such shows as *Shrek: the Musical*, *Addams Family*, and *Almost Maine*. When not at the theatre or working as a chef at Hops and Guac, he enjoys playing tennis and skateboarding. He is also a professional payload escorter and a member of the jelly of the month club.

# CREATIVE TEAM

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## MADISON SCHWANDT – PROPS MANAGER

Madison is a junior at UAH. She is majoring in theatre and accounting. This is Madison's fourth production with the UAH theatre department. She was previously in the chorus of *The Trojan Women* and *La Cage Aux Folles*, she also played Pam in *Hurricane Diane*, and she has participated in several play readings including, *Men on Boats* and *Advance Man*. Madison was also an acting apprentice with Huntsville Shakespeare's production of *The Tempest*.



## WHITNEY LEONARD – SOUND DESIGNER

Whitney is a sophomore Theatre Technology major at UAH. She has been a part of three shows here, *Mr. Burns*, *Request Concert*, *La Cage aux Folles*, *Hurricane Diane*, and *TempODYSSEY*. Her emphasis is on sound.



## KAREN BAKER – SUPERVISING STAGE MANAGER

Karen is a Full Time Lecturer at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. She received her MFA in Directing from The University of Alabama. A couple of her favorite projects include: *Mr. Burns: A PostElectric Play*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Eurydice*, *City of Angels*, *Children of Eden*, and *Fefu and Her Friends*.

## SPECIAL THANKS:

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Sean Lane

Deborah Nelson

Shannon Womack



## Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play

Spring 2018 – UAH Theatre

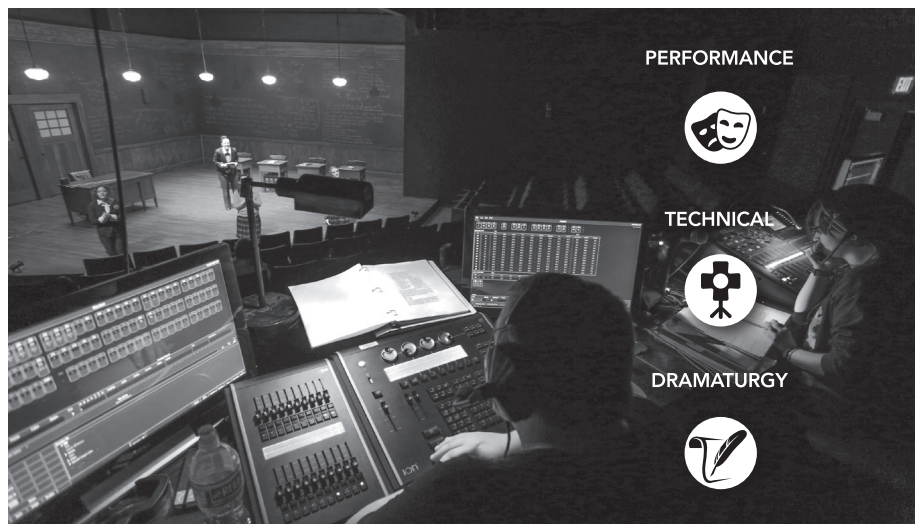
# OUR DONORS: NOV. 2019 – OCT. 2020

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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.

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.

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



**uahtheatre**



## ABOUT UAH MUSIC



The Department of Music at UAH seeks to provide a program of superior quality, where all students are given the opportunity to experience music as an academic discipline and as an art form. Its academic courses foster in students an understanding of music as an art and the appreciation of the best in music literature in order to enhance and enrich their lives. Its ensembles and performance-related curricula expose students to the artistic and communicative values of music.

UAH's Department of Music prepares musicians for careers as performers, educators, composers, church musicians, and music industry professionals. We enable all students, regardless of major, to pursue the art and beauty of music while honing the interpersonal and communication skills vital to every career.

Noted for quality instruction by nationally and internationally renowned faculty, and an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, the Department offers eight music programs, performance ensembles, and over 150 music performances each year. The Faculty of the Department of Music strives to provide leadership in artistic endeavors as well as cultural enrichment within the academic community and the participation in regional, national, and international forums.

So whether you are a current or prospective student, a curious amateur musician, or a community appreciator of music, let your voice be heard at UAH.

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Would you like to know more about being a Music major or minor at UAH? Email us at [music@uah.edu](mailto:music@uah.edu), or check out our website at [uah.edu/music](http://uah.edu/music).



**uahmusic**

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## WELCOME TO THE 2020–2021 SEASON



### **The Trojan Women**

Spring 2019 – UAH Theatre



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PERFORMANCE



TECHNICAL



DRAMATURGY



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