

UMD SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES PRESENTS

THE AMISH PROJECT

by Jessica Dickey



February 24-March 3, 2017
KAY THEATRE
at The Clarice

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND

TDPS

SCHOOL of THEATRE DANCE
and PERFORMANCE STUDIES

THE CALL

by Tanya Barfield
Eleanor Holdridge, director
KAY THEATRE
SEPTEMBER 30- OCTOBER 8, 2016

MFA DANCE THESIS CONCERT

WAKING DARKNESS. WAITING LIGHT.
by Colette Krogol and Matt Reeves
KOGOD THEATRE
OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

THE WILD PARTY

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa
Based on the Poem by Joseph Moncure March
Alvin Mayes and Scot Reese, directors
KOGOD THEATRE
NOVEMBER 4-11, 2016

MFA DANCE THESIS CONCERT

RENDER EDIT
by Sarah Beth Oppenheim
FULL CIRCLE: BRIDGING THE GAP
by Chris Law
DANCE THEATRE
DECEMBER 9-11, 2016

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People
by Oscar Wilde
Amber Paige McGinnis, director
KOGOD THEATRE
FEBRUARY 10-18, 2017

THE AMISH PROJECT

by Jessica Dickey
Mitch Hébert, director
KAY THEATRE
FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 3, 2017

THE SCHOOLING OF BENTO BONCHEV

by Maksym Kurochkin
translated by John Freedman
Yury Urnov, director
KOGOD THEATRE
APRIL 28-MAY 6, 2017

UMOVES: UNDERGRADUATE DANCE CONCERT

Christopher K. Morgan, director
DANCE THEATRE
MAY 5-7, 2017

SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Leigh Wilson Smiley, Producing Director

THE AMISH PROJECT

By Jessica Dickey

Director Mitch Hébert
Musical Director..... Aaron Bliden
Scenic Designer..... Matthew Buttrey
Lighting Designer..... Christopher Brusberg
Costume Designer..... Kristen P. Ahern
Sound Designer..... Patrick Calhoun
Dramaturg..... Renee Cyr
Stage Manager..... Matt Balfour

The Amish Project is presented by special arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The Amish Project was originally presented in the New York
International Fringe Festival in association with Nora Productions,
and further developed and produced by Cherry Lane Theater,
Angelina Fiordellisi, Artistic Director. World premiere produced
by Rattlestick Playwrights Theater in association
with Nora Productions.

There is Joy by The Eshes is performed with permission from Amos Esh.

In Memoriam

Naomi Rose Ebersol, aged 7
Marian Stoltzfus Fisher, aged 13
Anna Mae Stoltzfus, aged 12
Lena Zook Miller, aged 8
Mary Liz Miller, aged 7

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CAST
(in order of appearance)

Katie Gallagher.....Girl in burgundy & Sherry
 Tamar Gasko.....Girl in light blue & Eddie
 Trayonna Hutchins.....Girl in teal & America
 Molly Boyle.....Girl in purple & Bill North
 Mikala Nuccio.....Girl in blue & Carol

UNDERSTUDIES

Abigail Wasserman.....Girl in burgundy & Sherry/
 Girl in light blue & Eddie
 Samara Brown.....Girl in teal & America
 Sarah Hirsch.....Girl in purple & Bill North
 Martha Haskins.....Girl in blue & Carol

Time and Setting:

West Nickle Mines, PA. Then and now

This performance will last approximately 60 minutes

FINDING FORGIVENESS

On October 2, 2006 in Nickle Mines, a small community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, a man enters an Amish schoolhouse and opens fire. The incident left five Amish girls dead and a community shaken. Yet, out of this tragedy emerged a story of forgiveness and hope. The Amish forgave the assailant. A decade later, acts of violence remain painfully familiar. School shootings continue to haunt the nation. Perhaps suffering and hardships are inevitable, but how we confront these challenges defines our humanity. We hope that our production of *The Amish Project* contributes to an ongoing discussion of the transformative power of forgiveness.

In a violent world, reconciliation seems an increasing impossibility. What can we learn from the Amish? How can we forgive those who commit horrific acts of terror, war crimes, and gross human rights violations? Many view forgiveness as tantamount to not just condoning violence, but also dishonoring and even forgetting lost loved ones. Proponents of forgiveness believe that it does not release the person who wronged you from the consequences of his or her actions. Instead, it releases you from the negative energy that hate imposes on your wellbeing. However, forgiveness does not come naturally. It is a choice that has to be made and reaffirmed daily. Regardless of how quickly an individual appears to forgive, memory remains. Forgiveness is never easy, and may not be right for every person, or in every context. Yet, a deep and abiding belief in particular religious traditions and/or moral responsibility makes this process easier for some.

The Amish as a group are known for their commitment to forgiveness. The Amish hold that forgiveness is the only principle in "The Lord's Prayer" that Jesus underscores, because it is the only component that appears twice in the prayer, and is therefore critical to salvation. Additionally, they frequently cite the story of Jesus and an unforgiving servant, a parable about a master who forgives his servant only to have that servant refuse to forgive another. In response, the master revokes his pardon and has the man punished, which Jesus teaches is how God treats those who don't forgive (Matthew 18:21-35). The Amish interpret God's forgiveness of them as conditional on their willingness to forgive others. This reasoning provides the Amish the basis for *uffgeva*, a Pennsylvania Dutch term that roughly means, "yielding individual will to the rules of the Church," and serves as the justification for giving up modern conveniences like electricity, cars, and modern dress. *Uffgeva* is an embracing of tradition and simplicity in order to live a righteous and holy life.

Consequently, following the Nickle Mines shooting, the Amish community responded with words and gestures of support and forgiveness toward the widow and family of the assailant, as well

as assurances of their forgiveness for the shooter. Many Amish families visited the shooter's family, bringing flowers and food. Amish neighbors made up about half of approximately 75 mourners who attended the funeral of the shooter. The Amish response shocked the world almost as much as the shooting. However, the Amish bristled at suggestions that they are stoic, or repress feelings to conform to church expectations. Instead they emphasized this atrocity brought deep pain, tears, and raw grief, yet no expressions of outright rage, or hopes that the gunman would burn in hell would alleviate their suffering. The Amish view forgiveness not as miraculous but as hard work, yet work that must be undertaken.

Questions to consider: Do you think forgiveness is a desirable goal? Are there some acts that are unforgivable? What is the difference between forgiving others and self-forgiveness? Which is more important: forgiveness or justice?

-Renee Cyr, Dramaturg

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kristen P. Ahern (costume designer), first-year MFA candidate in costume design. UMD Credits: *The Wild Party* (assistant costume designer). Outside Credits: *The Fantasticks*, *Hairspray*, *Les Misérables*, Hope Summer Repertory Theatre (costume designer), *Sketchbook 2016*, Collaboraction (costume designer), *Bronte*, Prometheus Theatre Ensemble (costume designer), *Night Over Erzinga*, *Silk Road Rising* (assistant costume designer), *Annie*, The Paramount Theatre (assistant costume designer). Training: BA from Western Michigan University.

Matt Balfour (stage manager), fourth-year theatre and business dual degree candidate. Stamps Family Banneker/Key Scholar. UMD Credits: *The Wild Party*, *New Visions/New Voices*, *Regina*, *Tom in the Machine*, *My Devil Dance*, *Intimate Apparel*, *The Human Capacity*, *Dance Rhythm/Sound & Space*. Outside credits: SM intern for The Public Theater's *Trilus & Cressida*. Website: www.MattBalfour.com

Samara Brown (Girl in teal & America u/s), freshman theatre performance major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. This is her first UMD production. Outside Credits: *Hairspray* (Tracy Turnblad).

Molly Boyle (Girl in purple & Bill North), sophomore theatre major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. UMD credits: *The Wild Party* (Sam, Queenie u/s), *Intimate Apparel* (Mrs. VanBuren u/s). Outside credits: *This Is Our Youth* (Jessica), *Hairspray* (Tracy). Film: *Geographically Desirable* (Stacy).

Aaron Bliden (musical director), UMD credits: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. DC/Regional: *Hugo Ball* (Pointless), *Wild Sky* (Solas Nua),

Glassheart (Rorschach), *A Very Pointless Holiday Spectacular* (Pointless), *Minnie the Moocher* (Pointless), *Please Listen* (Open Drawer), *Imagination Meltdown Adventure* (Pointless), *The Solar System Show* (Pointless). Aaron is also an actor and a graduate of the University of Maryland's School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies.

Christopher Brusberg (lighting designer), first-year MFA candidate in lighting design. UMD credits included: *The Wild Party* (ALD) and *Rape of Lucretia* (ALD). Before coming to UMD, Chris designed mostly in the Boston area including: New Rep Theater, Actor Shakespeare Project, Company One, Boston Midsummer Opera, ART Institute, Boston Opera Collaborative, Guerilla Opera, Worcester State University, Northwestern University, Cal Lutheran University, and Vassar University. Please visit ctblighting.com for upcoming projects.

Matthew Buttrey (scenic designer), second-year MFA Design candidate at the University of Maryland. UMD credits: *The Importance of Being Earnest* (scenic designer). Outside credits: Olney Theatre: *Guys and Dolls* (assistant scenic designer); The Rio Las Vegas: *Penn & Teller* (assistant scenic designer); Mosaic Theatre Company DC: *Charm* (assistant scenic designer); The Muny St. Louis, MO: *Mamma Mia* (assistant scenic designer), *Young Frankenstein* (assistant scenic designer), *42nd Street* (assistant scenic designer), *Aida* (assistant scenic designer).

Patrick Calhoun (sound designer), is excited to work on *The Amish Project*! Patrick has worked with companies including Shakespeare Theatre, Folger Theatre, Center Stage, Theater J, Roundhouse Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Woolly Mammoth, Everyman Theatre, The Hub Theatre, Anacostia Playhouse, No Rules Theatre Company, and others around the country. For the 2012-2013 season he received the William R. Kenan, Jr. Fellowship at The Kennedy Center in Sound Design. Patrick completed graduate school at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and prior to that, his Bachelors at Greensboro College, North Carolina. Member of United Scenic Artists Local 829. For more information visit www.patrickcalhoun.info.

Liz Crino (assistant stage manager), junior theatre and psychology double major. UMD credits: *Troilus and Cressida* (assistant stage manager), *New Visions / New Voices* (performer). Outside credits: *Aida* (assistant stage manager), *Shrek Jr.* (assistant stage manager). Member of UMD's premier sketch comedy group, Sketchup.

Renee Cyr (dramaturg), second-year MA candidate in theatre and performance studies. Research interests include performances of grief and forgiveness, storytelling, and the intersection of religion, ritual, art, and theatre. UMD credits: *Tartuffe* (assistant director). She has worked professionally as a director, dramaturg, stage manager, and teaching artist.

Alexa Duimstra (assistant costume designer), second-year MFA candidate in costume design. UMD credits: *Render Edit* and *Troilus and Cressida*. Outside credits: Flying V's *Be Awesome: A Theatrical Mixtape of the go's*.

Katie Gallagher (Girl in burgundy & Sherry), junior theatre performance and Arabic major. UTAS board member. UMD credits: New Visions/New Voices, The Weekday Players' *The Odd Couple* (Cecily Pigeon), Second Season's *Prophets of Doom*. Outside credits: *Julius Caesar* (Metellus Cimber, Soothsayer).

Tamar Gasko (Girl in light blue & Eddie), senior theatre major. UMD credits: *The Lost World* (Brianna, Reporter), *Troilus and Cressida* (Priam). The Weekday Players: *Stop Kiss* (Sara). Avirah Israeli Dance Troupe, Mulitz-Gudelsky Family Scholarship in Theatre recipient.

Martha Haskins (assistant director/Girl in blue & Carol u/s), junior theatre studies major. Exchange student from the University of Glasgow. Outside credits: *Emily and John* (Emily), *Carnivale de Monate Filatura!* (Baba Dusza), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), *Stars in the Sky* (Charlie).

Mitch Hébert (director), Directing: co-directed *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was performed at both UMD/TDPS and The National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts, in Beijing, China. *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Glengarry Glen Ross* at Round House Theatre, *The Illusion* at Forum Theatre, *Rabbit Hole* at Olney Theatre Center. Acting: Roy Cohn in *Angels in America* parts 1 & 2, a co-production with Round House Theatre and Olney Theatre Center. He has received Helen Hayes Awards for acting (*After the Fall*, Theatre J) & directing (*Glengarry Glen Ross* at Round House Theatre).

Sarah Hirsch (Girl in purple & Bill North u/s), sophomore theatre performance and English double major. Outside credits: *Xanadu* (Kira, dance choreographer), *Man of La Mancha* (Aldonza), *Curtains* (Bambi, dance choreographer), *Aladdin Jr.* (dance choreographer).

Trayonna Hutchins (Girl in teal & America), first-year theatre performance major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar, Dean's Freshman Scholar. UMD credits: *Black Women Anonymous* (Woman A).

Marley Kabin (assistant director), senior theatre performance major. UMD credits: *Prophets of Doom* (Divara), *The Call* (Annie u/s). Outside credits: Capital Fringe, *Root of All Knowledge* (Mask), *Head that Wears the Crown* (Anisa). Training: Studio Theatre Acting Conservatory.

Sierra King (assistant stage manager), junior theatre major. UMD credits: *Fall 2016 MFA Dance Thesis Concert: Render Edit and Full Circle: Bridging the Gap.*

Mikala Nuccio (Girl in blue & Carol), graduating junior theatre performance major. Creative and Performing Arts Scholar. UMD credits: *The Lost World* (Olivia), *Baltimore* (Fiona), *The Wild Party* (Mae). Matthew 5:15-16.

Abigail Wasserman (Girl in burgundy & Sherry/Girl in light blue & Eddie u/s), junior theatre major. UMD credits: *Troilus and Cressida* (ASM), *Second Season Ghetto Symphony* (ASM), *Waking Darknes. Waiting Light.* (ASM), *Second Season's Prophets of Doom* (Adviser, Gerta), Outside credits: *Urinetown*, Monumental Theatre Company (ASM intern).

PRODUCTION STAFF

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS, DESIGNERS, AND STAGE MANAGERS

Assistant Directors Martha Haskins, Marley Kabin

Assistant Costume Designer Alexa Duimstra

Assistant Stage Managers Liz Crino, Sierra King

BUILD/LOAD-IN CREW

COSTUMES

Draper Dorothy Driggers

Crafts Ben Weigel

First Hand Amy Vanderstaay

Wardrobe Crew Head Kristina Martin

Stitchers Stephanie Austin, Ilana Bernstein, Amber Chaney, Vannya Cisneros, Madison Freeman, Aitana Garrison, Rina Goldman, Maria-Julietta Gozalo-Michaud, Evangelina Hakes, Margaret Warner, Gabrys Wronka, Shuping Yang

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

Lighting Crew Monica Albizo, Andrew Cho, Sam Elmore, Jamaal McCray,

George Srouji

PROPERTIES

Properties Construction Crew George-Edward Burgtorf, Andre Moore

Prop Shop Graduate Assistant Katie Stepanek

Prop Shop Student Workers Karen Dolle, Rachel Grandizio, Sydney Morrison, James Stubbs

Properties Student Crew Theo Couloumbis, Madison Freeman, Robert Gandy, Eric Jefferson, Mia Levenson, Gabriel Metzger, Trehana Riley, Maureen Roul, Christopher Walkup

PAINTS

Assistant Scenic Artists Kristin Brain, Lisa Dreibelbis

Student Scenic Painters Alex Beveridge, Aijha Byrd, Samarra Coakley,

Gabriella Di Giuseppe, Erin Lenahan, April Monu, Sydney Morrison, Sofia Moustahfid, James Nelson, Morgan Scott, Nabreyia Scott, Lei Yan

SCENIC

Set Construction Crew Mike Delaney, Madison Freeman, Kaitlin Graham, Ryan Harvey, Jordan Jones, Devin Kohn, Amber Masters, Alex Monsell, Niusha Nawab, Macy Regner, Ruth Shatkay
Student Set Construction Crew Alex Beveridge, Whitney Geohagan, Samuel Getty, Mikey Greenblatt, Gabriel Metzger, James Nelson, Christopher Walkup

SHOW CREW

Dressers Ken Johnson, Nabreyia Scott
Light Board Operator Jamaal McCray
Sound Board Operator Theo Couloumbis
Run Crew Samarra Coakley, Patrick Joy

FACULTY AND STAFF

Leigh Wilson Smiley *Director*
Maura Keefe *Associate Director*
Alvin Mayes *Director of Undergraduate Studies*
Franklin J. Hildy *Director of Graduate Studies*
Karen Bradley *Head of MFA Dance; Head of Dance Performance and Scholarship*
Misha Kachman *Head of MFA in Design*
Scot Reese *Head of Theatre Performance*
Esther Kim Lee *Head of MA/PhD Theatre Scholarship and Performance Studies; Head of History/Theory*

FACULTY

Jennifer Barclay *Playwright and Performance*
Karen Bradley *Dance History, Theory and Education*
Faedra Carpenter *Theatre History and Diversity*
Daniel Conway *Scene Design*
Adriane Fang *Dance Technique and Repertory*
Leslie Felbain *Movement for Actors and Acting*
Laurie Frederik *Performance Studies*
Cary Gillett *Stage Management*
James Harding *Theatre and Performance Studies*
Mitch Hébert *Acting and Directing*
Franklin J. Hildy *Theatre History and Theory*
Helen Q. Huang *Costume Design*
Paul D. Jackson *Production and Lighting Design*
Misha Kachman *Costume and Scene Design*
Maura Keefe *Dance History and Theory*
Esther Kim Lee *Asian American Theatre*
Brian MacDevitt *Lighting Design*
Caitlin Marshall *Theatre History and Theory*
Alvin Mayes *Dance Technique and Choreography*
Jared Mezzocchi *Production Media and Technology*
Lisa Nathans *Voice and Acting*
Sara Pearson *Dance Technique and Choreography*
Miriam Phillips *Global Perspectives, Movement Analysis and Flamenco*
Scot Reese *Directing, Black Theatre, and Musical Theatre*

Korey Rothman *Theatre History*

Leigh Wilson Smiley *Voice for the Actor, Acting, Speech & Dialects*

Patrik Widrig *Dance Technique and Choreography*

Patti P. Gillespie *Professor Emerita*

Roger Meersman *Professor Emeritus*

William V. Patterson *Associate Professor Emeritus*

Daniel Wagner *Professor Emeritus*

Anne Warren *Professor Emeritus*

Alcine Wiltz *Professor Emeritus*

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Christopher K. Morgan *Dance Technique*

LECTURERS

Kevin Augustine *Puppetry*

Cate O. Barger *Technical Production*

Lisa Burgess *Costume Crafts*

Michael Driggers *Computer Assisted Design*

Tessa Lew *Costume Construction*

Johanna Greuenhut *Scenic Design*

Mané Rebelo-Plaut *Ballet*

Cheryl Williams *Sound Design*

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS AND FELLOWS

Kristen P. Ahern, Christina Banalopoulou, LaTefia Bradley, Mustapha Braimah, Chris Brusberg, Matthew Buttrey, Stacey Carlson, Jeannette Christensen, Po-Hsien Chu, Alexandra Kelly Colburn, Mark Costello, Patrick Crowley, Renee Cyr, Paul Deziel, Connor Dreibelbis, Alexa Duimstra, Sanaya Forbes, Jenna Gerdson, Brittany Ginder, Jennifer Graham, Leslie Gray, Christine Hands, Allison Hedges, Tyler Herald, Kelley Holley, Heather C. Jackson, Jeff Kaplan, Colette Krogol, Ama Law, Chris Law, Peter Leibold, Emily Lotz, Sudesh Mantillake, Brandi Martin, Kioumars Mazandarani, Sarah Beth Oppenheim, Richard Ouellette, Matthew Reeves, Leticia Ridley, Victoria Scrimmer, Rob Siler, Katherine Stepanek, Fraser Stevens, Dylan Uremovich, Jonelle Walker, Benjamin Weigel, Allen Xing



Cast of TDPS' Spring 2015 production, *Good Kids*. Photo by Stan Barouh.

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