We hope that you will join us for our fall production auditions! Please read this entire message before signing up through the link at the bottom.

**Who can audition?**

Any UMBC student registered for fall 2019 is welcome to audition. All BFA or BFA-intending students (students who are interested in the BFA) are required to audition. **Everyone who auditions agrees to “play as cast.”** This means that by auditioning you are committing to accepting any role, and are available for the rehearsal and production schedule for both plays. These dates are outlined at the end of this announcement.

If you are cast, you must register for the appropriate course and section (3 upper-level credits of THTR 390) and purchase the required edition of the play specified by your course instructor-director.

Questions about audition policy may be directed to the Department Chair, Colette Searls, at csearls@umbc.edu.

**General Auditions**

**Thursday, May 9, from 7:00 – 11:00pm**
**PAHB 102 (TRS)**

**What to prepare:**

**Read both scripts thoroughly.** Scripts are available for check-out in the Theatre Office (PAHB 322). Think hard about the worlds of the plays and what part(s) you would hope to be considered for. Consider audition choices appropriate to that.

**Your audition will be composed of one piece.** Please prepare the following:

- Select and prepare a 90-second, passionate monologue that expresses something you care deeply about. (Please note: do not substitute yelling for passion or tension for intensity.) The monologue must be from a contemporary play can be either dramatic or comedic -- as long as it is well-rehearsed and truthful.
- **You may use material you have auditioned with in the past so long as you have continued to work on it and it demonstrates growth and improvement. Naturally, you must have read the play the monologue is drawn from and considered the circumstances of your character, as well as the precise context of the monologue.**
**Callbacks**

**TRS (PAHB 102)**

After the general auditions are complete, actors who are called back will receive notification of when they are expected to arrive. But all students should be prepared to attend both days of callbacks in the meantime. During callbacks, actors will be reading from the plays. Those materials will be made available in advance and/or at the callbacks. You will be expected to have informed opinions about the characters and the world of the plays and may need to prepare acting choices for multiple characters.

**Friday, May 10**
- 3:00pm – 6:00pm – Hunting and Gathering
- 7:00pm – 10:00pm – Girls on a Dirt Pile

**Saturday, May 11**
- 10:00am – 1:00pm – Hunting and Gathering
- 2:00pm – 5:00pm – Girls on a Dirt Pile

**Production Information**

**Hunting and Gathering**

By Brooke Berman

Directed by: Nyalls Hartman

Black Box Theatre

* Casting Breakdown:
  - 2 Women
  - 2 Men

First Rehearsal: Wednesday, August 28

Rehearsal Schedule: Monday – Friday 7:00 to 10:30pm

Tech Week Begins: Wednesday, October 16

Performances: October 24, 25, 26, at 8pm
  - October 27 at 2pm

Strike: Monday, October 28 and Tuesday, October 29

**Special Note:** All roles in Hunting and Gathering involve choreographed intimacy that includes kissing and physical touch.
About the play:

The play follows four characters, Bess, Ruth, Jesse, and Astor, who for different reasons are between housing options and are trying to find the perfect place to live in New York City, and similarly, the perfect relationship. Hunting and Gathering is a comedy that follows the four 20- and 30- somethings as they move in and out of each other’s lives and apartments and search for the true meaning of home. It’s a light and fast moving play that comes together with some meaning (and is sweet) at the very end.

The play uses direct address as part of its approach to the storytelling and the monologues are bright, clear, and to the point as the characters are smart and think fast. Scenes flow one into the other. For the most part the play is realism in its scenes between the characters, but then breaks the fourth wall and becomes stylized in its storytelling at certain points. All four characters live in multiple places using the same “stage” space with pieces sharing the various locations.

Girls on a Dirt Pile

By Susan McCully

Directed by: Eve Muson

Black Box Theatre

Casting Breakdown:
6-9 Women
2-3 Men

First Rehearsal: Monday, September 16

Rehearsal Schedule: Monday – Friday 7:00 to 10:30pm

Tech Week Begins: Wednesday, November 13

Performances: November 21, 22, 23 and December 6, 7 at 8:00pm
November 24 and December 8 at 2:00pm

Strike: Monday, January 21 through Wednesday, January 23

Special Note: The production will be entered into the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. If invited, we will remount the production at the Region II Festival in January, 2020 at University of Maryland, College Park. Actors can expect an additional commitment of time and energy for brush-up rehearsals, technical assignments, and load-in, performance and strike at the Festival January 8 through 23 (subject to change). We will provide more information at callbacks.

Special Note: This play contains allusions to sexual violence, discussions of violence, and may involve stylized depiction of both.
About the play:

The play takes its inspiration from a number of classical sources in which the traditional roles of women are transformed in the aftermath of personal and political catastrophe (e.g. "The Homeric Hymn to Demeter," The Trojan Women (Euripides) Fuente Ovejuna (Lope de Vega,) and Antigone (Sophocles and Anhouilh.) Stripped of her daughter and betrayed by her brothers, Demeter comes to recognize herself at the most elemental level. Despite total humiliation, she fights for her dignity and agency, aware that she will be the moral and emotional victor in the continuing war against structural patriarchy. The play points to topical issues – the spate of sexual abuse scandals, the world-wide refugee crisis, the separation of mothers from children, the ever-widening gap between the haves and have-nots.

The play is heavy on irony, passion, and physical story-telling. There may be masks, puppets, and a lot of dirt. Actors will have the unparalleled opportunity to collaborate with a playwright and director, bringing these characters to life for the very first time. We seek fearless actors who can bring their full selves to an intensive ensemble process.

Please go to here to for sign up information!

Questions? If you have any questions regarding specific auditions, you can email the directors at the email addresses below. DO NOT REPLY or REPLY ALL TO THIS EMAIL!

Hunting and Gathering: Nyalls Hartman – nyalls@umbc.edu

Demeter on A Dirt Pile: Eve Muson – ebumuson@umbc.edu

We look forward to seeing you at auditions!

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Colette Searls

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