

# GIRLS on a DIRT PILE

a new play by **Susan McCully**  
directed by **Eve Muson**



**November 21 - December 8**

UMBC Black Box Theatre

[theatre.umbc.edu](http://theatre.umbc.edu)



# Girls on a dirt pile

By Susan McCully  
Directed By Eve Muson

Scenic Designer  
Nate Sinnott\*

Costume Designer  
eric Abele\*

Llghting Designer  
Adam Mendelson

Sound Designer & Composer  
Patrick Calhoun\*

Movement Director  
Chelsea Pace

Vocal Director  
Lynn Watson

Puppetry Coach  
Colette searls

Stage Manager  
Molly Prunty

cover photo: David Guralnick/The Detroit News via AP

\* Members of uSA 829

## Cast

Demeter.....Ronnita Freeman  
Persephone.....Maria MArsalis  
Hades.....Lloyd Ekpe  
Zeus.....Jay Ruiz  
Hecate.....Anna COurtade  
Pemphredo.....Jordan Colea  
Enyo.....Vicky Graham  
Deino.....Connor Kertiss  
Ensemble.....Claudia Carter,  
Kayla Green, Colin maher, Alex Shawn, Khalid  
Taylor

Setting:  
Act I- The beginning of time  
Act II- 2500 Years Later

***Warnings:** This play contains allusions to sexual violence, discussions of violence, and involves choreographed depictions of both. It also contains strobe lighting.*

*There will be a 10 minute intermission between Acts.*

# A Note from the Playwright

Can this play about toxic masculinity, the #metoo movement, and a world on the brink of extinction be funny? I sincerely hope you find it so. Well, at least until you don't.

When my dramaturg, director and partner-in-crime Eve Muson and I first started conjuring "Girls on a Dirt Pile," we discussed a number of iconic Greek stories casting our webs for the Ur myths that speak to us in 2019. Both agitated and inspired by the #metoo moment, we wanted to write a play for our young feminist students of all genders. We decided to tell an epic story about the birth of the gods, and how, with their arrival comes gender inequality.

Into that crucible we threw Zeus, Hades, Demeter, Hecate and Persephone; out came tales of power, control, treachery and a brave young woman who stands up to her abusers. It's a good story and a noble one, but as two old crones spinning a play for young people, we kept laughing at the ridiculousness of it all. Mostly, we laughed at ourselves. In the end, we knew we needed those old witches, too. They take our young gods on a wild ride, cackling and teasing, until the horrors of our shared folly arrives.

-- Susan McCully

# Production Faculty & Staff

## **Production Manager & Technical Director**

Greggory Schraven

## **Assistant Production Manager & Stage Management Coordinator**

Samantha Paradis

## **Assistant Technical Director & Master Electrician**

Evan McDougall

## **Costume Shop Supervisor**

Joan Larkins Mather

## **Assistant Costume Shop Manager**

Sally Rath

## **Paint Charge & Properties Artisan**

Christa Ladny

## **Front of House Manager**

Brad Ranno

## **Box Office Managers**

Kabira Barlow & Laurie Newton

## Student Production Staff

**Assistant Stage Managers** Mykey Carpenter, Marley Sell

**Assistant Costume Designer** Caroline Tyson

**Assistant Scenic Designer** Kirsten Jolly

**Associate Lighting Designer** Corey Goulden-Naitove

**Assistant Sound Designer & Engineer** Steven Emminizer

**Assistant Vocal Director** Justine Cataneo

**Assistant Choreographer** Willa Murphy

**Master Electrician** Natalie Matthews

**Electricians** Celine Jones Cameron, Seth Kolbe, Janatia Tribble, Maggie Urban, Miles Abramson, Lisa Alonso, Tyler Brust, Jordan Colea, Thaddeus Harold, Chania Hudson, Ayodele La Veau, Robyn Levy, Kevin Luellen, Colin Maher, Cristhian Miranda, Jurdan Payne, Cayden Renich, Jay Ruiz, Jordyn Schoonover, Marley Sell, Theodore Sherron, Claudia Talbott

**Stitchers** Claudia Carter, Max Hromek, Abigail O'Brien, Cyana Ragland, Najuma Simon, Marie Smock, Janatia Tribble, Caroline Tyson, Maggie Urban

## Student Production Staff Cont.

**Master Carpenters** Kaylee Arnold, Jack Bez, Lasin Blomquist, Johnathan Brown, Tyler Brust, Jack Casper-Whoodhead, Nick Colantuono, Mykayla Conkle, Zaira Giral, Caitlyn Hooper, Kirsten Jolly, Colin Maher, Topia Oni, Juliet Schick, Marley Sell, Majenta Thomas

**Carpenters** Abigail O'Brien, Laura Glasgow, Kayla Green, Raksa (Rex) Lim, Lizzy Steele-Hertz and THTR 100 Students

**Painters** Kaylee Arnold, Kirsten Jolly, Majenta Thomas

**Props Artisans** Mykayla Conkle, Tyler Brust

**Production Assistants** Raksa (Rex) Lim, Theodore Sherron, Majenta Thomas

**Box Office Assistant** Sarah Staggs

**Sound Board Operator** Jalon Payton

**Light Board Operator** Cameron Luther

**Deck Crew** Jack Bez, Celine Jones Cameron, Caleb Griffith, Duncan McAdam, Cayden Renich

**Wardrobe Crew** Marina Benavides, Mykayla Conkle, Jennie Hardman, Mary Liberto



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## The Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival



The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by David M. Rubenstein.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation. 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.

## Spring 2020 Productions

### ***Gwyneth***

**Devised by Chelsea Pace and the Ensemble**

**March 26th-April 5th, 2020**

*Gwyneth* digs into how “Wellness” has come to mean wealthy, white, thinness, how Self-Care became commodified, and the purposes and pitfalls of “influencer culture.”

### ***Trouble In Mind***

**By Alice Childress**

**Directed by Gerrad Alex Taylor**

**April 30th-May 3rd, 2020**

A scathing indictment of racism in American commercial theatre, *Trouble in Mind* tells the story of Wiletta Mayer, an African-American actress cast in a supposedly “progressive” play about racism by a white male author—it turns out to be anything but progressive, both in terms of its script and rehearsal environment.

*(Historymattersbacktothefuture.com, 2019).*

## UMBC Department of Theatre

Full time Faculty/Staff Colette Searls (Chair), Eric Abele, Nyalls Hartman, Alan Kreizenbeck, Joan Larkins Mather, Susan McCully, Evan McDougall, Adam Mendelson, Eve Muson, Laurie Newton, Chelsea Pace, Samantha Paradis, Sally Rath, Gregory Schraven, Nate Sinnott, Lynn Watson

Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty/Staff Kabira Barlow, Christa Ladny, Susan Stroupe, Mohammad R. Suaidi, Gerrad Alex Taylor

Special Thanks To Dean Scott Casper and Provost Philip Rous, Laura Schraven and Commonvision, Caroline Mulcahy and the PAHB Operations. Nick Gonsman, Sam Punia and ETC, Inc., Jorge Cabrera, Jacob Mueller, Barbizon Capitol, Juan Juarez and Everyman Theatre.



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