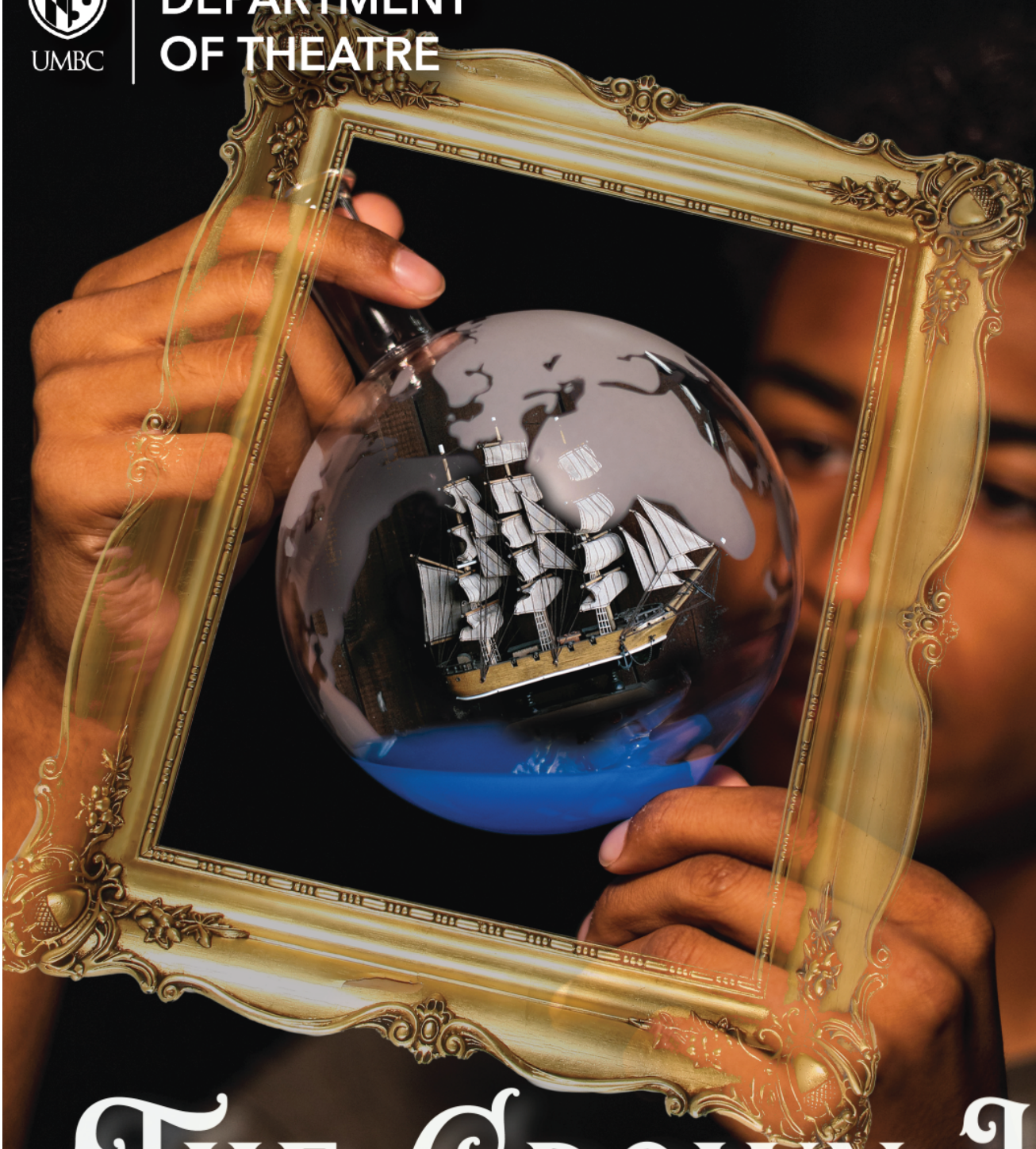




DEPARTMENT  
OF THEATRE



# THE CROWN-UP

WRITTEN BY JORDAN HARRISON

DIRECTED BY JOSEPH W. RITSCH



UMBC

DEPARTMENT  
OF THEATRE

# The Grown-Up

By Jordan Harrison

Directed by Joseph W. Ritsch\*

**Costume Designer**  
Eric Abele

**Scenic Designer**  
Emily Lotz

**Lighting Designer**  
Adam Mendelson

**Sound Designer**  
Madeline "Mo" Oslejsek

**Intimacy Choreographers**  
Katie Hileman and  
Shaquan Pearson

**Stage Manager**  
Fay McNair

This production will have no intermission.

**Content Advisory:**

Strong language, talk about depression and drug use, and sexual situations.  
Please note that there will be strobe lights, theatrical haze and fog.

\*



The Director is a Member of the  
**STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS  
SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

World premiere in the 2014 Humana Festival of New American Plays at ACTORS THEATRE OF LOUISVILLE. THE GROWN-UP was commissioned and developed by Clubbed Thumb, and was supported by the 2012-13 Clubbed Thumb Writers Group. The Grown-Up is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## **Cast**

### **Actor A (Kai)**

Enzo Leone

### **Actor B (Anna Bell/Lane Heatherette)**

Gabby Grant

### **Actor C (Grandfather/First Mate/Barry/Minister)**

Ifechukwu "Iffy" Alachebe

### **Actor D (Grandma/Rosie/Wedding Guest/Paula)**

Niara Taylor Richards

### **Actor E (Mr. See/Wedding Planner/Award Ceremony Emcee)**

Caleb Madison

### **Actor F (Josef the Fisherman/Steven/Cater Waiter/Miss McGinn)**

David Tannous

## **Understudies**

**Actor A** Cece Smith

**Actor B** Katie Hetzer

**Actor C & E** Marlon Brown Jr.

**Actor D** Lauren Christin

**Actor F** Kainoa Sittman

## **TIME:**

Past, Present and Future

## **PLACE:**

Where You Are Right Now

## Production Faculty & Staff

**Production Manager &  
Technical Director**  
Greggory Schraven

**Production Stage Manager**  
Tessara Morgan Farley

**Assistant Technical Director & Head  
Electrician**  
Evan McDougall

**Audio Engineer**  
Kaydin Hamby

**Carpenter, Properties & Scenic Artist**  
Tyler Brust

**Carpenter & Electrician**  
Miles Abramson

**Costume Shop Supervisor**  
Joan Larkins Mather

**Assistant Costume Shop Manager &  
Wardrobe Head**  
Margaret Caster

## Student Production Staff

**Assistant Director** Waylon Luo

**Assistant Stage Manager** Oriana E. Montes

**Associate Costume Designer** Giuliana Weiss

**Assistant Costume Designers** Rob Dunham,  
Lilli Malone

**Assistant Lighting Designers** Niya John,  
Renata Taylor-Smith

**Programmer** Cameron Luther

**Sound Board Operator** La'Trelle Makle

**Deck Crew** Christian Price-Burnett, Jamia Tutt

**Deck Crew Understudies** Nick Leiva, Mady  
Sims

**Sea Shanty Composition and Collaboration**  
Caleb Griffith, Emmanuel Ankutse

**Box Office Assistant** Renata Taylor-Smith

**Electricians** Emerson Balthis, Katie Givens,  
Niya John, Nick Leiva, Enzo Leone, Cameron  
Luther, Lukas O'Boyle, Mady Sims, Cece  
Smith, Renata Taylor-Smith, Brenden  
Thompson, Ezra Varyan Ormsby, Charlie  
Woods

**First Hand Stitcher** Olapeju Otusajo, Richie  
Verbeten, Roya Zafar

**Stitchers** Lilli Malone, Katie Givens

**Carpenters** Emerson Balthis, Katie Givens,  
Niya John, Nick Leiva, Enzo Leone, Cameron  
Luther, Lukas O'Boyle, Mady Sims, Cece  
Smith, Renata Taylor-Smith, Brenden  
Thompson, Ezra Varyan Ormsby, Charlie  
Woods, students from THTR 100 and THTR

264

**Wardrobe Crew** Roya Zafar

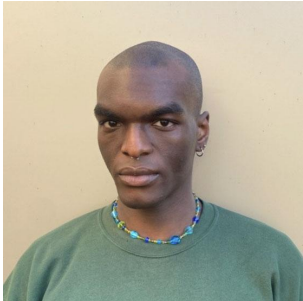
## Director



**Joseph W. Ritsch** (he/they) is a director, choreographer and playwright who is currently the Producing Artistic Director at Rep Stage. Rep Stage directing credits include: *Venus in Fur*, *Sunset Baby*, *Technicolor Life*, *Antigone Project: A Play in 5 Parts*, *The Other Place*, *Dorian's Closet*, *All She Must Possess*, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *The 39 Steps*, *Souvenir*, *E2*, *Songs for a New World*, and the upcoming production of *Falsettos*. Joseph's other recent directing credits include: *Machinal*, *The Amish Project* and *Small Mouth Sounds* (UMBC Department of Theatre); *Pride & Prejudice* (Catholic University School of Drama); *Spring Awakening* (Towson University); the multiple Helen Hayes nominated production of *OLIVER!* (Adventure Theatre); *The Understudy*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Everyman Theatre.) He holds an MFA in Theatre from Towson University, a

BA in Theater & Dance from The School of Performing Arts at The University of Maine, and completed his initial graduate studies in the acting track at the Professional Program at Playwrights Horizons in New York City. Joseph was also was a company member with Jane Comfort & Company. Joseph is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and serves on the Advisory Board of Theatre Washington.

## Cast and Associate Design Team



**Ifechukwu "Iffy" Alachebe (Actor C)** is a Junior BFA Acting Major and media and communications studies certificate from Lagos, Nigeria. Favorite Roles at UMBC include: Sheldon in *Trouble in Mind*, Jean in *This Remains*, Magic Missile in *She Kills Monsters*. Favorite Roles elsewhere include: Frank N Furter in *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Iffy is thanking the entire theater department, the director, stage management, cast, and crew of *The Grown-Up*.



**Marlon Brown Jr. (Actor C&E Understudy)** (he/they) is a Third year acting BFA Candidate at UMBC. His theatrical interests include stage and film acting, directing, and playwriting. Marlon fell in love with the theater in the Fall of 2018 and has been performing ever since. Some of his hobbies include studying languages, writing and reading poetry with friends, and playing the piano.



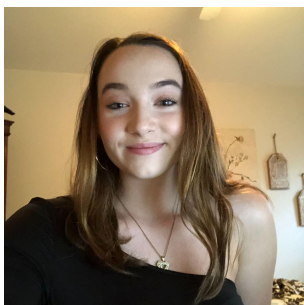
**Lauren Christin (Actor D Understudy)** (she/her) is a sophomore BFA acting major from PG County, Maryland. Past roles at UMBC include: Female Standby/Understudy in *Small Mouth Sounds* and Herself in *You Can See Me In The Dark*. She is also one of the event coordinators for the Association of Black Artists on campus. Love and gratitude to my community. Instagram: [@hi\\_imalauren](https://www.instagram.com/hi_imalauren)



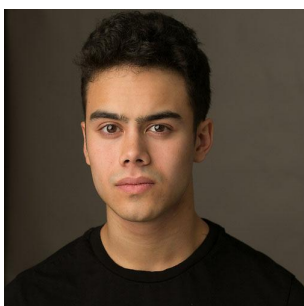
**Gabby Grant (Actor B)** (she/her) is a Junior BFA Acting Major from Linthicum Heights, MD. Her past roles at UMBC include Evelyn in *This Remains*, a Swing in *She Kills Monsters*, and Ensemble in *You Can See Me in the Dark*. She's an active member of UMBC's Musical Theatre Club, a former costume designer for Spotlighters Theatre, and currently a teaching artist at Drama Learning Center. She'd like to thank the cast and crew of *The Grown-Up*, *Joseph*, and her friends and family. [Gabbygranttheatre.weebly.com](http://Gabbygranttheatre.weebly.com)



**Caleb Madison (Actor E)** (he/him) is a Senior from LaPlata, Maryland. Past Roles at UMBC include: Jordan in *Everything Is Performance*, Steve in *She Kills Monsters*, and Ensemble in *You Can See Me In The Dark*. He would like to thank his parents for supporting his art.



**Katie Hetzer (Actor B Understudy)** (she/her) is a Sophomore BFA Acting Major from Harford County, MD. Favorite Roles at UMBC include: Lily/Lilith Morningstar from the play *She Kills Monsters*. Favorite Roles in the community include: A Disciple in *Godspell*, Katharine in *Newsies*, Patrice in *13 the Musical*, and Heather McNamara in *Heathers*. She would like to thank her parents and brothers for always encouraging her to chase after her dreams and making sure she never loses sense of herself.



**Enzo Leone (Actor A)** (he/him) is a Sophomore BFA Acting Major from Annapolis, MD. Having only done 1 other show, his favorite past UMBC role would be Ned from *Small Mouth Sounds*. Other favorite past roles include Laurie in *Little Woman*, Race in *Newsies*, and Mr. Cladwell in *Urinetown*. Enzo would like to thank his family for being his biggest source of confidence and humility, his friends and peers for pushing him to do better every performance, and of course you the audience for keeping the art of theatre alive. Instagram: [@leone\\_acting](https://www.instagram.com/leone_acting)



**Fay McNair (Stage Manager)** (they/them) is a Senior Theatre Studies Major with a focus in Stage Management from Baltimore, MD. Past roles at UMBC include assistant stage managing both *She Kills Monsters* and *Trouble In Mind*. Fay would like to thank the wonderful company of *The Grown-Up* for making their final show at UMBC an amazing experience.



**Niara Taylor Richards (Actor D)** (she/her) is from Chicago. She is a senior BFA Acting major and Africana Studies BA major with a minor in music. One of her favorite roles was playing Millie in UMBC's production of *Trouble in Mind*. Niara thanks her parents, sister, and friends for supporting her throughout her time in the Theater Department. She also thanks the director (Joseph Ritsch), her castmates, the stage management team, and the crew of *The Grown-Up* for making her last semester at UMBC special. Instagram:

[@niara\\_taylor](#)



**Kainoa Sittman (Actor F Understudy)** (he/him) is a Senior Asian Studies major from the one and only Prince George's County, MD. Favorite roles at UMBC include Teacher in *Small Mouth Sounds* and a member of the *You Can See Me in the Dark* ensemble. Past roles elsewhere include Jin in the student film *Waiting Room*, Sebastian in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*, and Matthew Cuthbert in *Anne of Green Gables*. He would like to thank his 'ohana, ERHS Drama and the FBHP Drama ministry.



**Cece Smith (Actor A Understudy)** (he/they/she) is a junior in the UMBC Acting BFA program with a minor in music focused in Voice. Favorite past roles include Eddie in *Trouble in Mind* (UMBC '22), Sheldon/Camille in *Junie B. Jones the Musical* (College of Southern Maryland '19), and Morris Delancey in *Newsies* (St. Mary's Summerstock 2019). Cece wants to thank the students and faculty of UMBC Theatre for pushing her to grow and her parents for their endless support and love, even from afar. You can see more of Cece as Mr. Brunner/Kronos in *The Lightning Thief* with the UMBC Musical Theatre Club, or as Tony/Tybalt in the *West Side Story/Romeo and Juliet* concert with the UMBC Opera Workshop Ensemble this May. Instagram: [@c.c.\\_smith](#).



**David Tannous (Actor F)** (he/him) is a senior BFA Acting major from Ramallah, Palestine. Favorite roles at UMBC include: Lucky in *Everything is Performance*, and Jan in *Small Mouth Sounds*. David enjoys having conversations with himself in front of the mirror and would like to thank his parents for not thinking that he is insane for doing that. Instagram: [@david\\_tannous](https://www.instagram.com/david_tannous)



**Giuliana Weiss (Associate Costume Designer)** (they/them) is thrilled to be working as the Associate Costume Designer for UMBC's production of *The Grown-Up*. They are a Senior Theatre Studies and Computer Science Major from the DMV Area, and their past roles at UMBC include Light Board Operator for UMBC's *She Kills Monsters* and Martha Dunnstock (u/s) in UMBC Musical Theatre Club's *Heathers: The Musical*. Giuliana is the Secretary of UMBC Musical Theatre Club and is currently working as the Costume Designer for the club's production of *The Lightning Thief*. [Giulianaweiss.com](http://Giulianaweiss.com)

## Support UMBC's Department of Theatre

UMBC's Department of Theatre is grateful for the support of the UMBC community. Community support strengthens our program and ensures that current and future students have the tools they need to make the most of their studies here. All ticket proceeds support scholarships for students.

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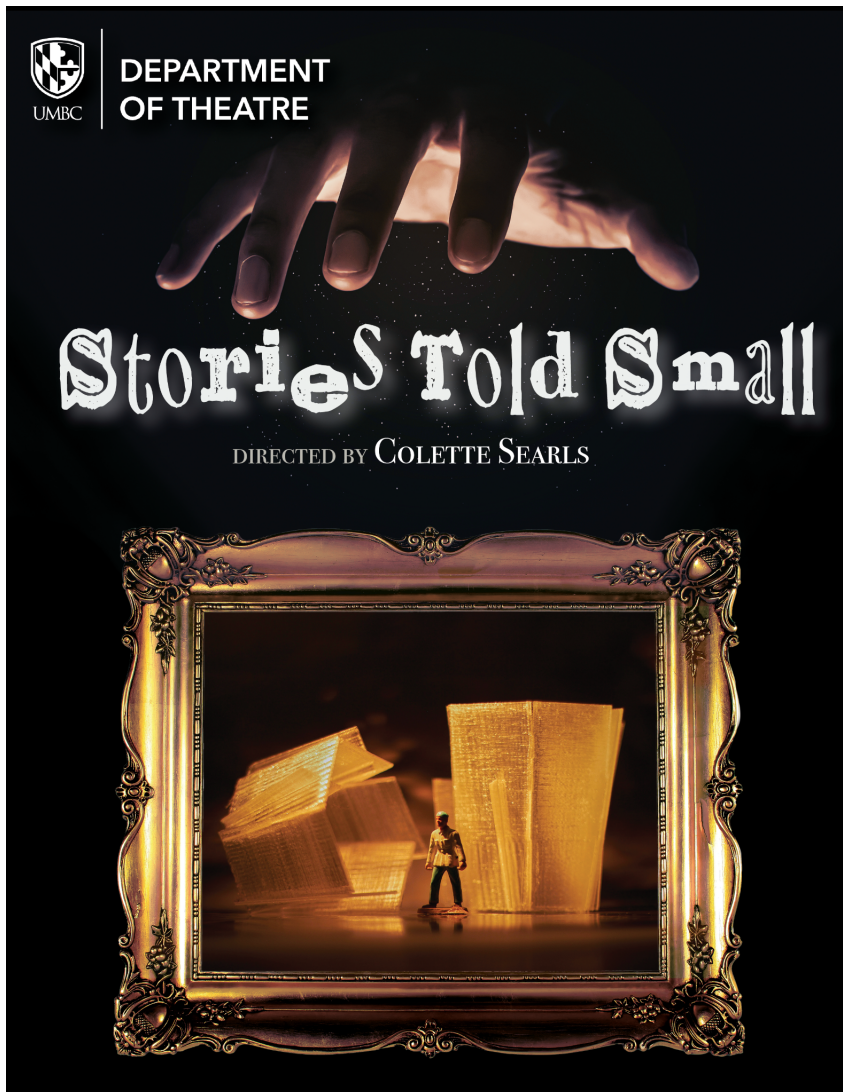
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**Thank you so much for your support!**



# 2022 - 2023 Season Upcoming Performances



## Stories Told Small

Directed by Colette Searls

May 5 – 7, 2023

Black Box Theatre

Written and directed by UMBC Theatre students – *Stories Told Small* packs big meaning into miniature dramas, using puppetry and all manner of tiny objects to spin novel tales. Stories spring from performers' minds, presented in an original variety show!

**Tickets available soon!**

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UMBC

# DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

At UMBC we believe that theatre is an ever-changing art form, responding to and creating new ideas that confront our ethical, political, and artistic ideas and practices. Degree programs leading to an Acting, BFA, a Theatre BA; Theatre Studies Track, or a Theatre BA; Design & Production Track provide students with the interdisciplinary skills to become actively engaged with their art and with the world around them. A dedicated faculty focuses on each student's evolution as an artist and as a person, making the study of theatre at UMBC a life-changing experience that stimulates, challenges and inspires.

## **New Ways and New Plays — Our Vision for the Future:**

UMBC Theatre fosters artistically innovative and socially engaged graduates in a leading liberal arts program. Using the latest technologies and practices, we experiment with theatrical forms, create provocative new work, and give voice where it is most needed.

Learn more at [theatre.umbc.edu](http://theatre.umbc.edu).

**Full-Time Faculty/Staff** Eve Muson (Chair), Eric Abele, Tessara Morgan Farley, Nikki Hartman, Joan Larkins Mather, Susan McCully, Evan McDougall, Adam Mendelson, Laurie Newton, Margaret Caster, Greggory Schraven, Colette Searls, Nate Sinnott

**Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty/Staff** Melissa Freilich, Andrew Hann, Katie Hileman, Jeff Miller, Joseph W. Ritsch, Susan Rome, Susan Stroupe

**Special Thanks To** Dean Kimberly Moffitt and Provost Philip Rous, Director of Arts and Culture Tom Moore, Kiirstn Pagan, Laura Schraven and Commonvision, Cael Mulcahy, the CAHSS Operations, and Lynn Cazabon.

Poster photography by  
[Kiirstn Pagan Creative Services LLC](http://Kiirstn.Pagan.Creative.Services.LLC)  
Poster design by Eric Abele  
Actor Pictured: Kainoa Sittman

Announcing our 2023 - 2024 Season!

