

LOVE SONGS  
LOVE SCENES  
LOVE STINKS

# DOWN WITH LOVE



**DIRECTOR:**  
Joseph W. Ritsch

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR:**  
Andrew Hann

**BLACKBOX THEATRE**  
December 6-8, 2024



UMBC

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

# Down With Love

## An Actor Showcase

**Directed by Joseph W. Ritsch**  
**Musical Direction by Andrew Hann**

**Costume Coordinator**

Becca Janney

**Lighting & Sound Designer**

Adam Mendelson

**Assistant Director**

Enzo J. Leone

**Stage Manager**

Katie Givens

### Cast

Ifechukwu "Ife" Alachebe Christian Price-Burnett

Rob Dunham Dario Prioleau

Marcus King Lucas Sanchez

LaTrelle Makle Zach Shields

Wesley Mauder Mady Sims

Lukas O'Boyle Alissa Suser

Franchesca Parker Misaki Weddington

This production will have no intermission.  
The video or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.

**Content Transparency:** Profanity and references to sexual situations.

# Program

1. Song: Down With Love  
Musical: *Hooray For What!*  
Composer: Harold Arlen  
Lyricist: E.Y. Harburg  
Actors: Franchesca Parker, Christian Price-Burnett, Misaki Weddington, LaTrelle Makle, Alissa Suser, Ensemble
2. Character: Fran  
Play: *To Love or Be Loved*  
Playwright: Franchesca Parker  
Actor: Franchesca Parker
3. Character: Sally  
Song: "Maybe This Time"  
Musical: *Cabaret*  
Composer: John Kander  
Lyricist: Fred Ebb  
Actor: Lukas O'Boyle
4. Character: Kenny  
Play: *Goodbye Charles*  
Playwright: Gabriel Benjamin Davis  
Actor: Wesley Mauder
5. Character: Andres  
Play: *Claire, My Eclair*  
Playwright: Tara Meddaugh  
Actor: Dario Prioleau
6. Character: Dom  
Play: *Potty Talk*  
Playwright: Rob Dunham  
Actor: Rob Dunham
7. Character: Sally  
Song: "Maybe This Time"  
Musical: *Cabaret*  
Composer: John Kander  
Lyricist: Fred Ebb  
Actor: Lukas O'Boyle
8. Character: Betty #1  
Play: *Collective Rage: A Play in 5 Betties*  
Playwright: Jen Silverman  
Actor: Mady Sims
9. Character: Kayleen  
Play: *Gruesome Playground Injuries*  
Playwright: Rajiv Joseph  
Actor: Marcus King
10. Character: Billy  
Song: "If I Loved You"  
Musical: *Carousel*  
Composer: Richard Rodgers  
Lyricist: Oscar Hammerstein II  
Actor: LaTrelle Makle
11. Character: Paul  
Play: *The Search For Signs Of Intelligent Life In The Universe*  
Playwright: Jane Wagner  
Actor: Zach Shields
12. Characters: Joe & Harper  
Play: *Angels in America*  
Playwright: Tony Kushner  
Actors: Wesley Mauder & Alissa Suser
13. Characters: Mastiff & Moor Hen  
Play: *The Moors*  
Playwright: Jen Silverman  
Actors: Lucas Sanchez & Ife Alachebe
14. Character: Billy Flynn  
Song: "All I Care About is Love"  
Musical: *Chicago*  
Composer: John Kander  
Lyricist: Fred Ebb  
Actor: Marcus King

15. Song: "Getting Married Today, What I Did for Love"  
Musicals: *Company*, *A Chorus Line*  
Composers: Stephen Sondheim, Marvin Hamlisch  
Lyricists: Stephen Sondheim, Edward Kleban  
Arrangement by: Andrew Hann  
Actors: Franchesca Parker, Misaki Weddington, Lucas Sanchez, Ensemble
16. Character: Dickarus  
Play: *Dickarus*  
Playwright: Derek Smith  
Actor: Lukas O'Boyle
17. Characters: Maureen & Joanne  
Song: "Take Me or Leave Me"  
Musical: *Rent*  
Composer: Jonathan Larson  
Lyricist: Jonathan Larson  
Actors: Alissa Suser & Misaki Weddington
18. Character: Ken  
Play: *Red*  
Playwright: John Logan  
Actor: Christian Price-Burnett
19. Characters: Seymour & Audrey  
Song: "Suddenly Seymour"  
Musical: *Little Shop of Horrors*  
Composer: Alan Menken  
Lyricist: Howard Ashman  
Actors: Rob Dunham & Mady Sims
20. Character: Chad  
Play: *Other Side of the Chasm*  
Playwright: Joseph Arnone  
Actor: LaTrelle Makle
21. Characters: Cinderella's Prince & Rapunzel's Prince  
Song: "Agony"  
Musical: *Into the Woods*  
Composer: Stephen Sondheim  
Lyricist: Stephen Sondheim  
Actors: Christian Price-Burnett & Wesley Mauder
22. Character: Scratch  
Play: *Witch*  
Playwright: Jen Silverman  
Actor: Lucas Sanchez
23. Character: Ashley  
Play: *Dance Nation*  
Playwright: Clare Barron  
Actor: Ife Alachebe
24. Character: Harper  
Play: *Angels in America*  
Playwright: Tony Kushner  
Actor: Misaki Weddington
25. Song: "What I Did for Love, Down With Love"  
Musicals: *A Chorus Line*, *Hooray for What!*  
Composers: Marvin Hamlisch, Harold Arlen  
Lyricists: Edward Kleban, E.Y. Harburg  
Arranged by: Andrew Hann  
Actors: Misaki Weddington, Franchesca Parker, Ensemble

# Production Faculty & Staff

**Production Manager &  
Technical Director**  
Greggory Schraven

**Assistant Technical Director**  
Evan McDougall

**Lead Carpenter, Props & Scenic Artist**  
Tyler Brust

**Production Stage Manager**  
Tessara Morgan Farley

**Costume Shop Supervisor**  
Eric Abele

**Assistant Costume Shop Manager**  
Margaret Caster

## Student Production Staff

**Production Assistant** Mady Sims

**Associate Sound Designer & Sound**

**Board Operator** Jay Shovan

**Light Board Programmer** AnnaSophia  
Gutierrez

**Props Coordinator** Ann Davies

**Deck Crew** Grace Marsh, Aidan  
Henderson

**Wardrobe Head** Molli Martin

**Wardrobe Crew** Camila Hidalgo

**Lead Electrician** Miles Abramson

**Electricians** Students of THTR 262 &  
THTR Staff

**Scenic Artists** Ann Davies, Katie Givens,  
Adam Harper, Jay Shovan, Mady Sims, Nia  
Zagami

**Carpenters** AnnaSophia Gutierrez, Katie  
Givens, Adam Harper, Enzo J. Leone, Jay  
Shovan, Mady Sims, Nia Zagami, Students  
of THTR 100 and 264

# Director Bio



**Joseph W. Ritsch** (they/them) is a director, choreographer and playwright who served as the Producing Artistic Director at Rep Stage from 2014-2023. 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 *Falsettos*. Joseph's other recent directing credits include: *The Amish Project*, *Machinal*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, and *The Grown-Up* (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*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *The Mystery of Irma Vep* (upcoming) (Everyman Theatre.) They hold 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 a company member with Jane Comfort & Company. Joseph is a proud member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society (SDC) and The Dramatist Guild.



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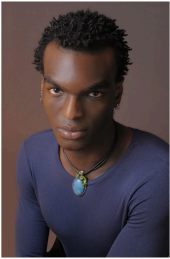
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# Company Bios

(in alphabetical order)



**Ifechukwu "Iffy" Alachebe (Ensemble)** is originally from Lagos, Nigeria now based between the DMV area and NYC. Iffy is currently a senior at UMBC pursuing a BFA Acting Degree. Iffy is thrilled to be in their last performance in undergrad as an ensemble member in *Down With Love*. Iffy would like to thank the Lovely: Production/Stage Management, Cast, Designers (light, set, sound), Wardrobe, Run Crew, Assistant Director Enzo Leone and Talented Director Joseph Ritsch for an amazing process. Their favorite recent roles include: Dr Seward in *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really*, Ensemble in *shOUT!*, and God in *Slime*.



**Rob Dunham (Ensemble)** will insist he's "Not an actor." If you see him on stage, it's no fluke, and he's not being held against his will... he just wanted the attention. Firmly identifying as a writer, Rob is currently crafting *Potty Talk*, an original play that dives into the hard truths of growing up—truths best found in a men's bathroom. With dreams that border on blissful delusion, he's aiming for Broadway, Hollywood, and eventually the Oval Office—because if he's going to leave his mark, it might as well be with a piece of him everywhere.



**Katie Givens (Stage Manager)** (she/her) is a senior Theatre Design and Production Major from Newark, DE. You may have previously seen her work in UMBC's *She Kills Monsters*, *Trouble in Mind*, *You Can See Me in The Dark*, *The Grown-Up*, *shOUT*, *Dracula*, *Slime*, *Green Theatre Revolution*, and most recently *Stupid F\*cking Bird*. Outside of UMBC, she has worked with Delaware Shakespeare for their Summer Festival. Katie would like to thank her family, friends, and all her collaborators for the endless support!



**Andrew Hann (Music Director)** (he/him) is a voice coach, singer, pianist, and yoga practitioner based in Baltimore, Maryland. In addition to offering singing voice work, he offers gender affirming voice care for trans and non-binary folx to help discover their authentic voice which aligns with their identity. As a performer, Andrew has demonstrated his versatility by appearing on stage as a vocalist, harpsichordist, and music director. Favorite roles include Arnalta in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Orphée in *La descente d'Orphée aux enfers*, Pane in *La Calisto*, and Jimmy Smith in the 2014 premiere of Frances Pollock's social justice opera *Stinney*.

Previous UMBC productions include *ShOUT* and *You Can See Me In The Dark*.



**Becca Janney (Costume Coordinator)** (thon/they) Professional design credits include: Barrington Stage (*Next to Normal*), Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (*Merry Wives*), Gala Theatre (*The Return of Eva Peron: Momia en el Closet*), Imagination Stage (*Cinderella*, *A Salsa Fairytale*), Creede Repertory Theatre (*Cinderella*), WaterTower Theatre (*Everything is Wonderful*, *Godspell*) and Stage West Theatre (*Ada and the Engine*). Educational design credits include: American University (*Damn Things Will Kill Ya*), Maryland Opera Studio (*Don Giovanni*), University of Maryland (*A Bicycle Country*), Baylor Theatre (*Peter and the Starcatcher*). They

got their MFA in costume design at the University of Maryland. Website: [beccajanney.com](https://beccajanney.com) Instagram:

[@beccajanneydesigns](https://www.instagram.com/beccajanneydesigns)



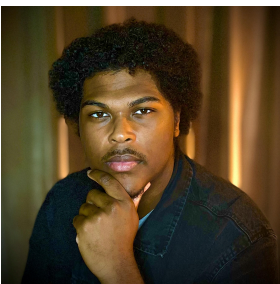
**Marcus King (Ensemble)** is a versatile actor known for bringing depth and energy to every role he takes on. A senior at UMBC, he has honed his skills onstage through a series of dynamic performances. His credits include standout roles such as Steve in *She Kills Monsters* and Father Tuashime in *Our Lady of Kibeho*, where he brought emotional resonance to his characters and captivated audiences. Marcus also performed in *Green Theatre Revolution* and took on the challenging role of a Swing in *Dracula: A Feminist's Revenge Fantasy, Really*, showcasing his adaptability and commitment to the craft. Outgoing and dedicated, Marcus has

developed a wide range of acting skills that he is excited to bring to new platforms. With a strong interest in film, theater, and voice-over, Marcus is eagerly preparing to take his talent beyond the stage and into diverse media, where he aims to continue captivating audiences with his passion and presence.



**Enzo J. Leone (Assistant Director)** (He/Him) is a senior BFA Acting Major from Annapolis, MD. This season Enzo will be serving as the assistant director for *Down With Love*. Having done 3 shows at UMBC, his favorite role so far would be Kai from *The Grown-Up*. Other favorite past roles include Laurie in *Little Women*, Race in *Newsies*, and Mr. Cladwell in *Urinetown*. Most recently Enzo had the privilege to understudy Romeo in Folger Shakespeare Theatre's production of *Romeo and Juliet*. 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 with every

performance, you the audience for keeping the art of theatre alive, and the wonderful theatre department at UMBC for helping him to foster his craft. Instagram: [@leone\\_acting](https://www.instagram.com/leone_acting)



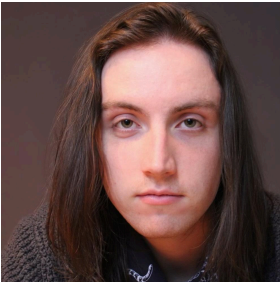
**LaTrelle Makle (Ensemble)** *Down With Love* is LaTrelle's second Black Box performance at UMBC. His first production at UMBC was *shOUT*, back in Fall 2023. Other performance credits include: *Once on This Island*; *How to Succeed*; *Once Upon A Mattress*; *Murder by Midnight*; and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*.



**Wesley Mauder (Ensemble)** (he/him) is a senior earning his BFA in Acting as well as his graduate level certificate to teach Computer Science. You can find Wesley pretty much anywhere on campus. He is Lead TA for the Intro to Computer Science program, Vice President and Coach of Dog Collar Comedy, a member of the Gospel Choir, as well as being in both of UMBC Theatre's shows this semester. Wesley hopes to make the most out of his final semesters here at UMBC, so if you don't see him around, he's probably got his head buried in the mass amount of coding assignments he has to grade. Wesley would like to thank his roommates Lucas Sanchez, Nia Zagami and Anthony Rivera for making a home for him to come back to every day.



**Adam Mendelson (Lighting & Sound Designer)** (he/him) teaches Lighting and Sound Design at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where he helped prepare the new theatre spaces for the opening of the state-of-the-art Performing Arts and Humanities Building in August of 2012. He previously taught design at the University of Wyoming, the University of Texas-Arlington, Stephens College (Columbia, MO), and Lawrence Academy (Groton, Massachusetts). His design work has been seen across the country and as far afield as Edinburgh, Scotland. He designs lights and sound for our Theatre department productions and he teaches lighting design students in sophisticated professional level technology and supervises Theatre design majors.



**Lukas O'Boyle (Ensemble)** (they/them) is a Senior in the BFA Acting program, and is approaching their close on the UMBC stage. They have recently been pursuing acting, writing, stage combat, and whatever other forms of theatre they can get their hands on. Lukas has most recently been seen in UMBC's Blackbox productions of *shOut: A Queer Theatre Project*, and *Green Theatre Revolution*. Outside of UMBC they most recently have been focusing on putting out voice over auditions en masse, and shooting zombie movies and YouTube videos with friends. Lukas hopes you will come see them on stage once they've graduated, or will settle for listening to them talk.



**Franchesca Parker (Ensemble)** (she/her) is a senior in the UMBC Theater Department. You may recognize her from *Trouble in Mind*, playing the strong, Willetta Mayer, and *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, Really, playing the absolute badass, Dr. Van Helsing, and very recently as Emma Arkadina in *Stupid F\*cking Bird*. Her performance in *Dracula* got Franchesca an actress nomination for The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, at which she walked away with a vocal and speech award, the VASTA award. Franchesca has returned to her dancing roots when not performing in department shows; she recently choreographed a Philly Fringe Festival production called *Carmilla*. She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Down with Love* for all of the hard work and dedication put in by each and every one of you. She would also like to thank Joseph Ritsch for being an incredible director and professor this entire semester. Finally, she'd like to thank her mom and sister for being there for every step of her theater journey. Without them, she truly wouldn't be standing here today. To follow Franchesca on her acting journey and life you can follow her Instagram: [@Franchesca\\_m\\_p](#). Please enjoy the show!!



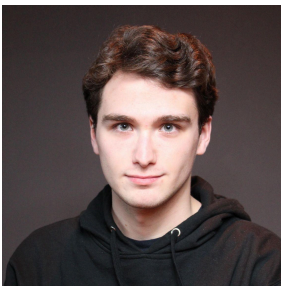
**Christian Price-Burnett (Ensemble)** (he/him) is a junior BFA Acting Major from Pikesville, Maryland. His favorite past roles include Chuck Cranston in *Footloose*, Phil, Jimmy and East in *Almost, Maine* at RCS High School, and Ensemble for *Matilda*, and *The Secret Garden* at Park Playhouse. His past roles at UMBC include various roles in *SHOUT!*, Ensemble in *Slime*, and most recently Con and Dev's understudy in *Stupid F\*cking Bird*. Christian would like to thank his chorus and music directors, Mr. Fatuzzo and Mrs. McLoughlin, his twin, Christopher and his dad and mom. Christian can play the trombone, has intermediate guitar training, and can do a handstand/walking handstand, front handspring and round off. Instagram: [@wrld.of.tian](https://www.instagram.com/wrld.of.tian)



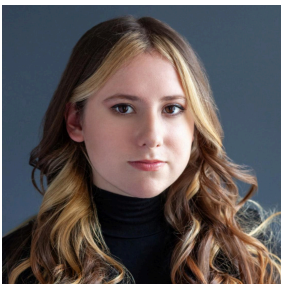
**Dario Prioleau (Ensemble)** is a junior in the BFA Acting Program at UMBC. He would like to thank his Mom, Dad, Brother, Grandma and all of his family for the amazing love and support on this journey.



**Lucas Sanchez (Ensemble)** (He/Him) is a junior BFA Acting major hailing from Frederick, MD. This is Lucas's fourth production at UMBC. You may have seen him as Jonathan Harker in *Dracula*, 2023, or as some water in *Slime*, 2024. Look out for Lucas in a few local MD movies releasing soon: *Was Once a Hero*, *Stinky Summer*, and *Ghost Game*, as well as his production company's most recent project, *Apocalypse, Right Now*, which premieres early next spring! Lucas would like to thank all of the amazing faculty here in the theatre department!



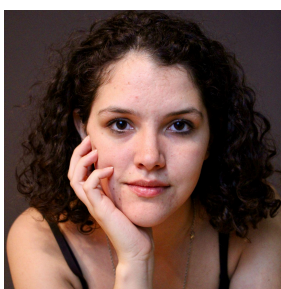
**Zach Shields (Ensemble)** (he/him) is a BFA Acting major from Clarksville, Maryland. *Down With Love* is his fourth and final (this time for real) performance at UMBC. His productions at UMBC were *Stories Told Small* as a puppeteer, *SHOUT: The Queer Theater Project* as a part of the ensemble, and *Slime* as Ev. Zach is thankful for the opportunity to show his metal on the stages of UMBC and take what he learned here with him far into the future. He would like to thank his castmates and teachers for making his time in the UMBC Theatre Department so memorable and, of course, his mom for all the support (even though she doesn't understand it half the time). "Our souls' comedy and drama, our emotions' past and present." - Loris



**Alissa Suser (Ensemble)** is a junior Acting BFA. Previously at UMBC Alissa has been a part of *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really* as Drusilla/Miller/Merchant. You may have seen Alissa outside UMBC in Vagabond Players production of *Into The Woods* as Little Red, or at Other Voices Theater's production of *Newsies* as *Bunsen/Seitz/Nun/Bowery Beauty*. Alissa would like to thank her 1998 Honda Odyssey for making it through this semester.



**Misaki Weddington (Ensemble)** (any pronouns) is a senior BFA Acting major and this is her first black box show with UMBC Theatre. This is also her first devised show, and she had a lot of fun crafting this show this semester. In the past she has been seen as Dumbo in *Slime*, Schwartz in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and Celia in *As You Like It*. She would like to thank her family for being so supportive of her artistic pursuits.



**Mady Sims (Ensemble & Production Assistant)** (she/they) is very excited to work on this amazing show! This is Mady's third time working on a devised show with UMBC! They performed in UMBC's devised show *This Remains*, and stage managed *Green Theatre Revolution*. They have also performed in *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*, *Really* as Mina, and *Trouble In Mind* as Judy. This is Mady's senior year and she is very grateful for the support and experience gained through her time at UMBC. She is also grateful to her family for the endless support and love they have given her!

## 2024 - 2025 Season On Stage Next...



### John Proctor is the Villain

By Kimberly Belflower  
Directed by Susan Stroupe

April 3 - 13, 2025  
Proscenium Theatre  
**Tickets Available Soon!**

In a high school English class, a group of lively teens are studying "The Crucible" while navigating young love, sex education, and the founding of a feminist club. Holding a contemporary lens to the American classic, the kids uncover more than one school scandal and discover their own power in the process. Alternately touching and biting funny, this new comedy runs on pop music, fury, and the audacity of a new generation coming-of-age.



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# 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](https://theatre.umbc.edu).

**Full-Time Faculty/Staff** Eve Muson (Chair), Eric Abele, Margaret Caster, Tessara Morgan Farley, Nikki Hartman, Becca Janney, Susan McCully, Evan McDougall, Adam Mendelson, Derek Prouty, Gregory Schraven, Colette Searls, Nigel Semaj, Nate Sinnott, Gerrad Alex Taylor

**Part-Time and Adjunct Faculty/Staff** Tyler Brust, Andrew Hann, Katie Hileman, Joseph W. Ritsch, Susan Stroupe

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

**Poster Design** by Eric Abele

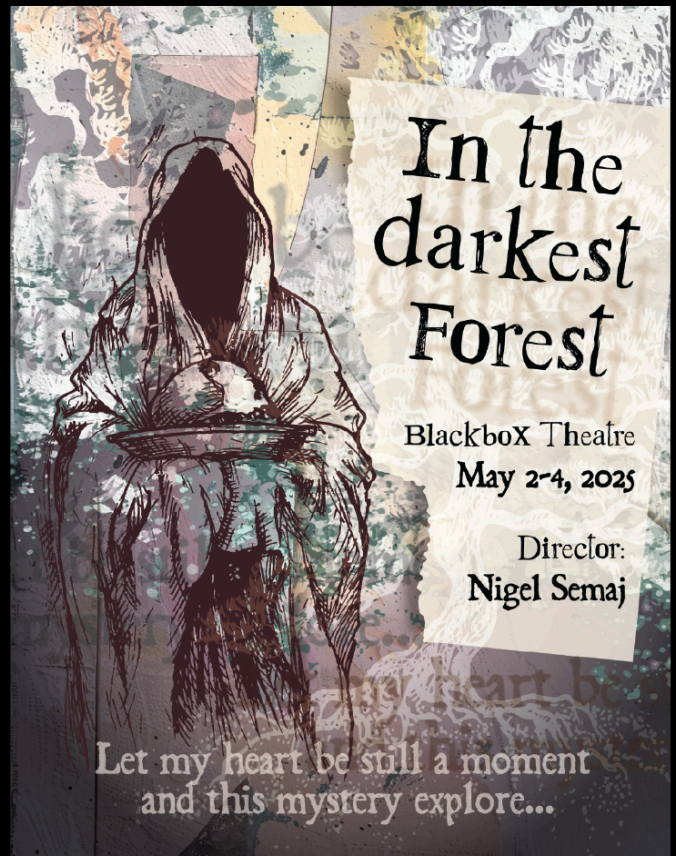
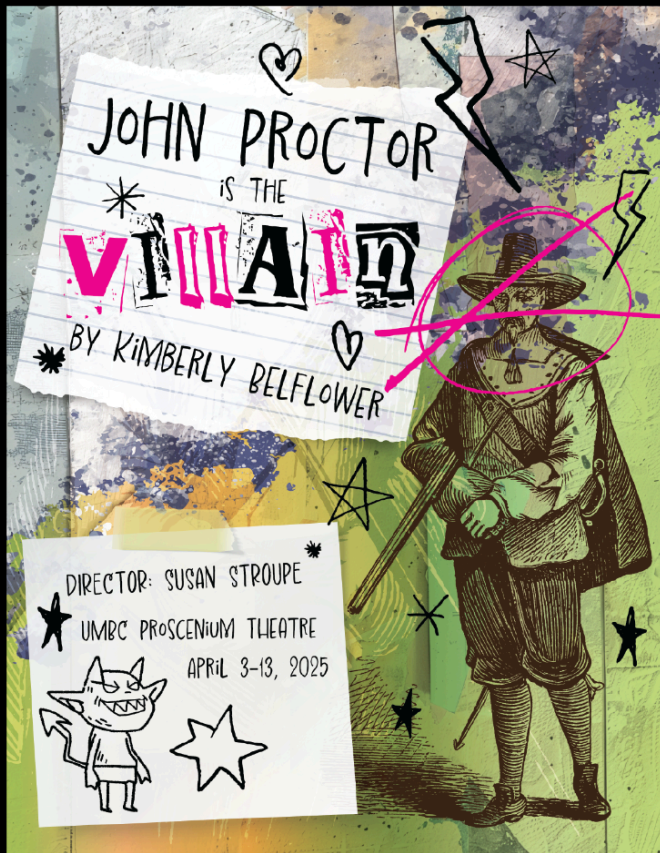
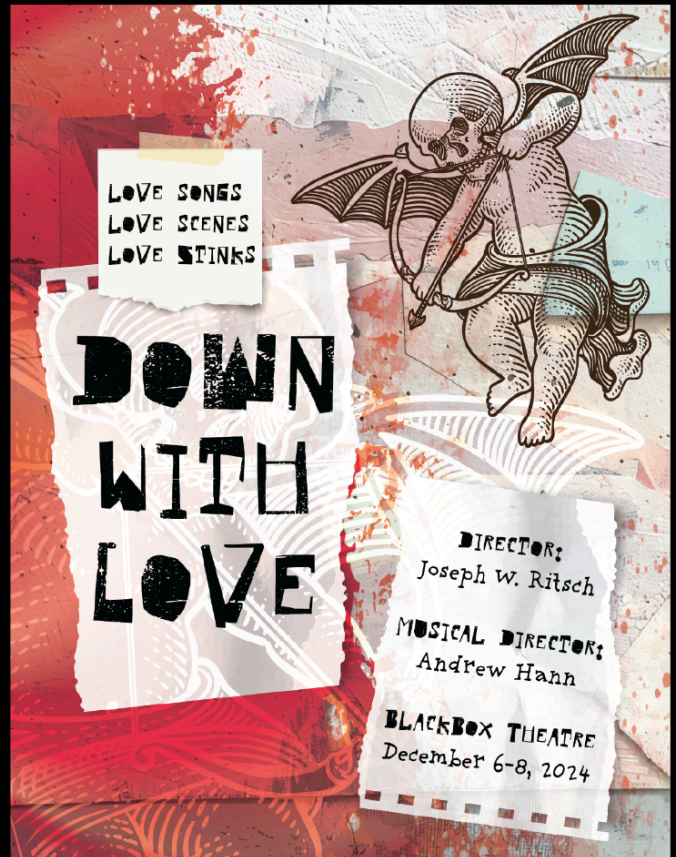
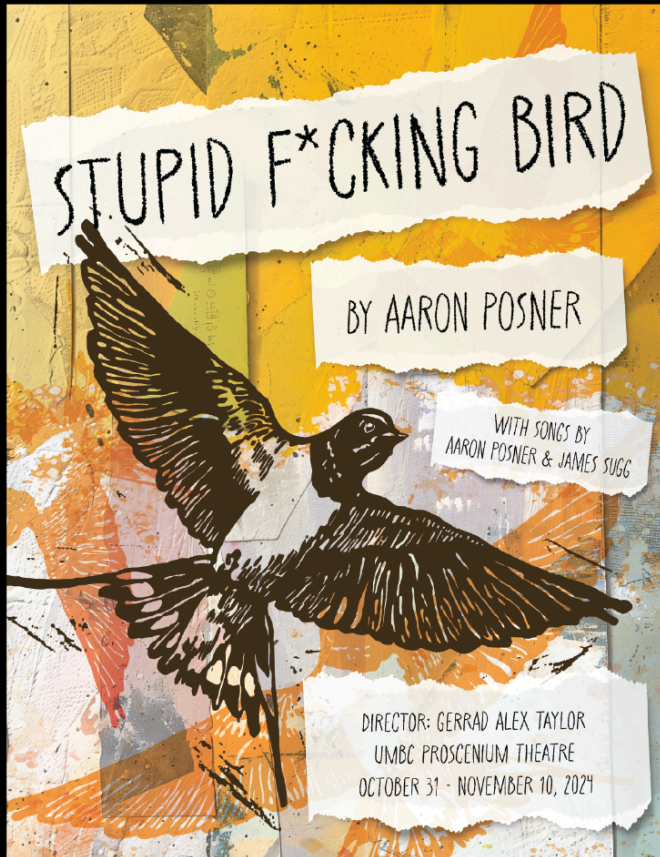
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# UMBC THEATRE



2024 - 2025 SEASON

