

THE MONMOUTH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE
PRESENTS

{Proofs}

2 3 5 7 11 13 17 19 23 29 31

By DAVID AUBURN

NOVEMBER 18-20, 2022
WELLS THEATER



1853

FROM THE DIRECTORS

THEATRE CURRICULUM

The final project for *Theatre 377: Principles of Directing* is bringing into fruition a full-length play. Accordingly, with this production, each student directed approximately twenty percent of *Proof* by David Auburn. To do so, students drew upon their recent studies in directing, as well as upon previous knowledge of acting, design and tech., script analysis, and dramaturgy.

THE PLAY

The play *Proof* examines many strong themes: hereditary brilliance and mental illness; trust, doubt, love, and loss within personal relationships; and women in STEM. Among these themes, we are compelled by *Proof*'s exploration of how quick trust can turn to doubt and how hard it is to regain that trust.

INDIVIDUAL NOTES

Dani Lopez: I strongly relate to Catherine and her relationship with Robert, so was very happy to be assigned to the scenes that focus on them. I'm sure the audience, too, will find the character that is the most similar to them, and I hope this makes watching the production more real. Empathy allows for each viewer to have a different perspective of the play. This empathy may even help us when we're in a rut trying to figure out our own problems; at least that's what I hope the audience can take away from this show.

Ryan Bowman: I first worked on David Auburn's *Proof* in 2020 at Carl Sandburg College. The play was my very first acting experience, and it led me to pursue a theatre major at Monmouth College. I did not expect that I'd come back to Auburn's story again, and more so as a director. I hope that the audience finds this play beautifully rendered by young, wonderful actors and first-time directors. We have come together in this production, and exploring this story in a different lens has revealed additional layers. Revisiting Catherine, Hal, Robert and Claire (and working with the actors portraying them) has been wonderful, and I am glad to be retelling this story.

(Concluded on back cover)

THE MONMOUTH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

PRESENTS

PROOF

By David Auburn

Directed by

Ryan Bowman, Drew Cliffler, Dani Lopez,
Zesty Lythgoe, Gabriela Madu

November 18 – 20, 2022
Friday-Saturday 7:30 p.m. | Sunday 2 p.m.
Wells Theater

Proof by David Auburn is presented by special arrangement
with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

The production will run approximately two hours,
with one 10-minute intermission.

Content Warning:

*This play features depictions or references to death,
mental health issues and alcohol use.*

Please silence all electronics.

*Restrooms and drinking fountains are located in the lobby.
Photography and recording of any kind is prohibited.*

The 2022–23 Monmouth College theatre season
is dedicated to the memory of

MARION AUSTIN JONES '50

Loyal alumna, trustee and lover of the arts

THE TIME AND PLACE

The present. Chicago, Illinois.

THE CAST

CATHERINE	Molly White (Thurs./Sat.) Hannah McGhee (Fri./Sun.)
HAL	Eric Pio (Thurs./Sat.) Colin Kreipe (Fri./Sun.)
CLAIRE	Calista Lythgoe (Thurs./Sat.) Reese Hill (Fri./Sun.)
ROBERT	Edrass Chávez (Thurs./Sat.) Doug Rankin (Fri./Sun.)

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Directors	Ryan Bowman, Drew Cliffel, Dani Lopez, Zesty Lythgoe, Gabriela Madu
Faculty Supervisors	Vanessa Campagna, Todd Quick
Scenic and Lighting Designer	Doug Rankin
Sound Designer	Sam Zigmant
Assistant Sound Designer	Gabriela Madu
Costume Designers	Vanessa Campagna, Reese Hill
Technical Director	Doug Rankin
Makeup Design	Haylee Ford
Props	Dareann Pettis, Sam Zigmants
Dramaturgs	THEA 377 Students
Box Office Manager	Skylar Law
Poster Illustration	Grace Cornelius
Stage Crew	Jadyn Craig, Jacob Duncan, Phoenix Johnson, Dominick Knazur, Adrianna Lopez, Mia Martino, Layla Reynolds, Evonni Wilbon, Sam Zigmant

SPECIAL THANKS

President Clarence R. Wyatt and First Lady Lobie Stone

Dean Mark Willhardt

Duane Bonifer

Attic Antiques

Jeff Rankin

MEET THE ACTORS



MOLLY WHITE (Catherine) is a sophomore theatre major from Joliet, Ill. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* and Prince Escalus in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Monmouth College activities include Alpha Xi Delta, treasurer of Alpha Psi Omega, Alpha Lambda Delta, Scot Ambassadors, Speech Assistant, Communications 101 tutor and Orientation Leader. Molly would like to thank her parents for always believing in her, her Alpha Xi sisters for their constant support, and the Theatre Department for giving her great opportunities.



CALISTA LYTHGOE (Claire) is a freshman theatre major from Boulder, Colo. Calista was the assistant stage manager for *Romeo and Juliet*, and this will be their first acting role here at Monmouth. Calista would like to thank all of the amazing student directors for this opportunity, and for helping to create such an amazing show.



REESE HILL (Claire & Co-Costume Designer) is a sophomore theatre education major with an art endorsement from Kansas City, Mo. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*, Actress #2 in *The Spoon River Project* and The Ghost of Christmas Present in *A Christmas Carol*. Other Monmouth College activities include vice president of communications for Alpha Psi Omega, Chorale, First-Year Mentoring, Scot Ambassadors, art, and speech tutoring. Reese would like to thank her mom, sister and wonderful people in her life for their unconditional love and support.



ERIC PIO (Hal) is a freshman art major from Galesburg, Ill. He has previously appeared as Balthasar in *Romeo and Juliet*. Eric would like to thank Monmouth and its theatre program for giving him this opportunity to perform.



COLIN KREIPE (Hal) is a freshman theatre and communications major from Carlville, Ill. Previous Monmouth College theatre experience includes playing Peter in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Monmouth activities include Chorale, Chamber Choir and Marching Band. Colin would like to thank Katherine Starr for the continuous support over the years.



EDRASS J. CHÁVEZ (Robert) is a freshman neuroscience major from Chicago. He has previously played Lord Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Monmouth College activities include Chorale and poetry. Edrass would like to thank the Theatre Department for their time and dedication to the play, and the student directors who gave him encouragement every step along the way.



DOUG RANKIN (Robert) is enjoying his 16th role on the Monmouth College stage since he first appeared in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* while still in high school. A 1979 Monmouth graduate, he has been technical director since this theatre opened in 1990. Doug played Henry II in the first Wells Theater production, *The Lion in Winter*, and is excited to return to the Wells for this, the 101st production. He would like to thank Tamy for putting up with his constant absences while helping make theatre happen at Monmouth.

MEET THE PRODUCTION STAFF



SATYR KEELING (Stage Manager) is a senior art major and classics minor from St. Louis. Previous Monmouth College Theatre experience includes playing the Apothecary in *Romeo and Juliet* and working on set for *A Christmas Carol* and *Little Women*. Satyr would like to thank their partner for always supporting him and his interest in theater.



ELIJAH LIND (Stage Manager) is a senior economics major from Walnut, Ill. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Murgatroyd in *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, Paul in *Black Mountain*, Billing and Captain Horster in *An Enemy of the People*, and Rodrick in *Little Women*, multiple characters in *The Spoon River Project*, and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Monmouth College activities include president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Chorale and Chamber Choir.



DAREANN PETTIS (Prop Designer) is a freshman theatre major from Moline, Ill. Previous Monmouth credits include sign language teacher in *Tribes*, Ensemble in *The Nutcracker* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*, and sign language interpreter in *Little Women: The Musical*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Other Monmouth College activities include American Sign Language Club. Dareann would like to thank the directors for directing the beautiful, meaningful play to be involved in bringing the stage to life.



SAMANTHA ZIGMANT (Props Designer) is a sophomore theatre education major with an English endorsement from Joliet, Ill. This is her second show at Monmouth as she has recently transferred from Joliet Junior College. Previous credits include Tarin in *Good Fortune: A Cautionary Tale*, Ensemble in *The Laramie Project*, stage manager for *Beckett Bites* and *The Tenacity of Just Seeming* at JJC, and stage manager for *Romeo and Juliet* at Monmouth College. Over the summer she had the opportunity to take part in the LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston, Tex., and perform in front of 30,000 people in the Houston Astros Minute Maid Park. She would like to thank the Theatre Department for being so welcoming and supportive, and her family and friends for supporting her every step of the way.



RYAN BOWMAN (Co-Director) is a junior theater major from Monmouth. Previous Monmouth College roles include Oedipus Rex in *Oedipus Rex* for Classics Day XIII (2021), and Lord Montague in *Romeo and Juliet* (2022). This is Ryan's second production of *Proof* since beginning his theater major at Carl Sandburg College. He would like to thank both Dr. Vanessa Campagna and Professor Todd Quick for giving him the opportunity to explore this familiar play once again.



DREW CLIFFEL (Co-Director) is a senior theatre and music major from Lakewood, Ohio. Previous Monmouth College Theater credits include Friar Lawrence in *Romeo & Juliet*, Actor Three in *The Spoon River Project*, Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*, John Brook in *Little Women*, Doug in *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Dwight in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, Major Magnus Muldoon in *The Real Inspector Hound* and Postman/Constable in *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. Other Monmouth College activities include Chorale, Chamber Choir, Alpha Psi Omega, Crimson Masque, and Sig Ep.



DANIELA LOPEZ (Co-Director) is a junior transfer student majoring in theatre from Scottsbluff, Neb. Her previous college theatre experience includes playing Linda in *Play it Again, Sam*, Claire in *Fuddy Meers*, Inez in *No Exit* and stage-managing *This is Not a Pipe Dream* and *True West*. She also played Gregory in the recent production of *Romeo and Juliet*. Daniela would like to thank her previous professors and family for getting her this far.



CELESTE "ZESTY" LYTHGOE (Co-Director for both casts) is a junior history secondary education major from Denver, Coloo. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Actress Five in *The Spoon River Project*, Marie Antoinette in *The Revolutionists*, and Mrs. Stockmann in *An Enemy of the People*. Other Monmouth College activities include Chorale.



GABRIELA "GABBAY" MADU (Co-Director) is a senior computer science and theatre double major from Montego Bay, Jamaica. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Moon in *The Real Inspector Hound*, Meg in *Little Women*, Hermia in *Dead Man's Cellphone*, Aunt Elieri in *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, Marianna Angelle in *The Revolutionists* and Actress Three in *The Spoon River Project*. She has assistant directed for *Gruesome Playground Injuries* and *Black Mountain*, sound designed for *Dead Man's Cellphone*, *Black Mountain* and *Romeo and Juliet*, and stage managed for *A Christmas Carol* and *Gruesome Playground Injuries*. Other Monmouth College activities include co-coordinating Women's Empowerment at The Champion Miller Center, Chorale, Marching Band, Alpha Psi Omega and Crimson Masque. She would like to thank her professors for pushing her to achieve her full potential and her friends for supporting her throughout her Monmouth College career.

Coming in 2023:

CANDIDA

by George Bernard Shaw

Directed by **DOUG RANKIN**

Feb. 24, 25, 26

MINOR THEATRE AT
HALDEMAN-THIESSEN CENTER



An examination of marriage and the relationship between husband and wife in the Victorian era.



In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above.

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Directed by **DR. VANESSA CAMPAGNA**

April 20, 21, 22, 23

WELLS THEATER

by Alan Menken, Howard Ashman,
Glenn Slater & Doug Wright



A JOINT PRODUCTION WITH
**THE BUCHANAN
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS**



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
ARTS**

The Buchanan Center for the Arts
acknowledges support from
the Illinois Arts Council Agency

DIRECTORS' NOTES *(Continued from inside front cover)*

Drew Cliffl: While audiences may empathize with one character more than others, I want them to see parts of themselves in all of the characters. Each is relatable in some way. Claire attempts to do what's best for her sister even while not understanding her. Catherine struggles to accept that she is like her father (which might not be as simple as a good or bad thing). Hal has the drive to do what is right for himself and those around him. Robert wants to devote himself fully to the things he loves. Auburn's characters are very human and I want people to connect to them and to the story. Auburn offers an important message about the importance of recognizing how much trusting those around us matters, the need for being able to detect when doubt is creeping in, and the effects a lack of trust has on people.

Zesty Lythgoe: I want the audience to feel like they can root for every single character in *Proof*, not just the protagonist. I think that the best stories have such well-rounded character portrayals that audiences can even find themselves empathizing with the antagonist, occasionally. I am very proud of our casts for their work, which has resulted in my growing love for characters who, at the beginning of this process, I thought of as annoying and toxic. Every actor in this production has given their character an element of charm and vulnerability that highlights the incredibly strong but complex relationships featured within the story. The actors have found the characters' humanity. I encourage the audience to notice the small moments of connection that show why the characters in this play still care deeply about each other, despite the difficulties they have with one another.

Gabbay Madu: *Proof* by David Auburn has been a part of my academic career since my freshman year. It has been exciting to work on a production that holds different levels of familiarity among the directors. One of us has acted in the play; three of us have worked with it in a classroom setting; one of us has no previous experience with the play. The play's content remains relevant and is relatable to all audiences, as the playwright explores universal themes of love, loss, ambition and psychology—just to name a few. The work done on this production has been thoughtful, as we recognize the message's importance. I hope that audiences are able to find similarities between the characters' lives and their own and find that despite life's trials and difficulties you will always find "proof" of better times to come.

Enjoy the show.

The Directors