

Donate to
Lights Up!

November 21

7:30 P.M. • FULKS THEATRE

Light reception to follow in Hester North Lobby

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acu.edu/theatre
325-674-ARTS

ACU THEATRE
transforming artists

STIFEL

Statement of Misson

The Abilene Christian University Department of Theatre is committed to providing quality training and opportunity for the disciplined theatre artist in a nurturing environment that models Christian values.

ACT ONE:

"Tradition"
Spoken Word by Alexis "ACE The Advocate" Scales
Choreographer: Eean Cochran
Assistant Choreographer: Aubrey Pearce
Dancers: Faith Betts, Aubrey Pearce, Parker Mershawn, Parker Stiffler, Caleb Van Hook, Kendall West

Higher by Michael Buble
Choreographer: Parker Mershawn
Dancers: Lillian Carney, Zoe Dobratz, Phoebe Hood, Kesiah Stewart, Parker Stiffler, Natalie Stuard, Caleb Van Hook, Macy Waldrop, Abby Welter

Miss Misfortunately by Gracie
Choreographer: Allison Diaz
Dancers: Lillian Carney, Rhema Cunningham, Allison Diaz, Kellyn Dixon, Jerell Isaac, Christy McBride, Collin McKean, Frederick Noe-Tchatat, Kaitlyn Olson, Maya Padilla, Paige Perrone, Nathaniel Reichle, Annalei Russell, Kayden Solomon, Kate Wilcox, Aida Wilkes

House of the Rising Sun by Lizzie McAlpine
Choreographer & Dancer: Kacyn Hiley

Theme for Schindler's List by John Williams
Choreographer: Nathaniel Reichle
Dancers: Grace Alston, Nathaniel Reichle, Macy Waldrop

"Let Them Breathe"
Black Goose/Let Me Breathe by Priya Ragu
Choreographer: Alisha Taylor
Assistant Choreographer: Karissa Ward
Dancers: Leya Applewhite, Lois Botelua, Katie Curry, Grace Eason, Frederick Noe-Tchatat, Kayden Solomon, Karissa Ward, Abby Welter, Reaghan White, Kate Wilcox

So Far Away by Carole King
Choreographers: Aubrey Pearce & Caleb Van Hook

Ladies in a Line by Sara Bareilles
Choreographer: Abbey Fitzjarrell
Assistant Choreographer: Kendall West
Dancers: Grace Alston, Lillian Carney, Phoebe Hood, Julien Little, Parker Mershawn, Natalie Stuard, Macy Waldrop, Karissa Ward, Abby Welter, Kendall West

-INTERMISSION-

ACT TWO:

Get Happy by Sammy Davis Jr.
Choreographer: Abbey Fitzjarrell
Assistant Choreographer: Kendall West
Dancers: Faith Betts, Julien Little, Parker Mershawn, Parker Stiffler, Natalie Stuard, Karissa Ward, Kendall West

Dracula by Tame Impala
Choreographer: Kerrigan Wright
Dancers: Brooklyn Cano, Lillian Carney,
Katie Curry, Kellyn Dixon, Reece Harvey, Kaitlyn Olson,
Maya Padilla, Annalei Russell, Annie Shields, Kesiah Stewart,
Cami Walther, Aida Wilkes

A Little Bit of Everything by Lizzie McAlpine
Choreographer & Dancer: Kendall West

The Room Where It Happens by Lin Manuel Miranda
Choreographer: Caleb Van Hook
Dancers: Leya Applewhite, Rhema Cunningham, Grace Eason, Jerell Isaac,
Parker Mershawn, Aubrey Pearce, Paige Perrone,
Nathaniel Reichle, Parker Stiffler, Caleb Van Hook, Macy Waldrop

Tokyo Daylight by the 8-Bit Big Band & Andy Arthur Smith
Choreographer & Dancer: Karissa Ward

Interdimensional by Cosmo Shelldrake
Choreographer: Karissa Ward
Dancers: Grace Alston, Kacyn Hiley, Parker Mershawn, Aubrey Pearce
Nathaniel Reichle, Parker Stiffler, Caleb Van Hook, Abby Welter,
Kendall West, Kerrigan Wright

"Truth"
United in Grief by Kendrick Lamar
Choreographers: Eean Cochran & Alisha Taylor
Assistant Choreographer: Karissa Ward
Dancers: Katie Curry, Jerell Isaac, Christy McBride, Parker Mershawn,
Frederick Noe-Tchatat, Kaitlyn Olson, Maya Padilla, Nathaniel Reichle, Karissa Ward,
Kendall West, Reaghan White, Kerrigan Wright

Call My Name by I'm With Her
Choreographers: Kacyn Hiley, Karissa Ward, Kendall West

"Transformation"
River by Leon Bridges
Choreographer: Eean Cochran
Assistant Choreographer: Aubrey Pearce
Dancers: Grace Alston, Faith Betts, Julien Little, Parker Mershawn
Aubrey Pearce, Parker Stiffler, Natalie Stuard, Macy Waldrop,
Karissa Ward, Kendall West

Production Team

Chair/Producing Artistic Director & Executive
Director/Professor……Dawne Swearingen Meeks
Guest Choreographers……Eean Cochran, Alisha Taylor, Abbey Fitzjarrell
Production Manager……Kendall West
Head of Costume……Catherine Baumgardner
Costume Shop Assistant……Rachel McNiece
Technical Directors……Cody Drennan, Eric Pitney
Head Lighting Designer……Alise Tran
Associate Lighting Designers……Allison Diaz, Rayne Harris
Light Board Op……Alise Tran
Sound/ Board Op……Matthew Hogan
Stage Manager……Mason Cox
Assistant Stage Manager……Josh Bruno
Shop Foreman……Cayden Taylor, Eva Barnard, Katie Breedlove, Rayne Harris
Matthew Hogan, Imogen Long, Maya Padilla, Nathaniel Reichle,
Alise Tran, Jackson Wilder
Costume Shop Prac……Eva Barnard, Logan Beckwith,
Lois Botelua, Katie Curry, Lillia Mack, Moriah Petree, Chaya Powell,
Annalei Russell, Frederick Noe-Tchatat, Kylie West, Kerrigan Wright
Costume Shop Assistants……Leya Applewhite,
Amelie Beegle, Katie Breedlove, Lila Griffith
Matthew Lietz, Lilia Mack, Maya Padilla, Bee Peyton, Chaya Powell

Production Team Cont.

Glass Case Design……Reaghan White
Box Office/Patron Services Director……Devin Braswell
Program Designer……Devin Braswell
Program Cover Design ……Holly Harrell
Production Photographer……Riley Fisher
Program / Publicity / Web Design……Adam Hester, Devin Braswell
PR / Fundraising / Box Office……Leya Applewhite, Faith Betts, Erin Brogan, Emily Graves, Rayne Harris, Christy McBride, Reaghan White
House Management……Erin Brogan, Connor Lamb

Acknowledgments

ACU Theatre would like to give special thanks to Eean Cochran, Alisha Taylor, Abbey Fitzjarrell, Key City Dance, Joel & Ruthie Swedlund, SRWC, Stifel, John and Rhonda Wright, Riley Fisher, Melissa Henderson & the ACU Learning Studio, Dr. Rachael Milligan, Abilene Theatre Weekly, LYNAY, 10:9 Design, Sally's Printing

Producer's Note

Dance at ACU Theatre has its own Footloose story. Many of us grew up in Churches of Christ where dancing was discouraged. That history makes this year's themes of Tradition, Truth, and Transformation especially meaningful. What a gift to see our students tell stories using the beautiful bodies that the Lord has given them.

I had the privilege of working with Alisha Taylor and Eean Cochran as students when I directed Footloose. Even then, each brought talent, passion, and a distinct artistic vision to the rehearsal room. Today, I'm grateful to collaborate with them as fellow artists of faith and to call them dear friends.

For Footloose, I invited Eean to choreograph one number. Years later, I invited him to choreograph our Homecoming production of Big Fish. Only once before had a student choreographed a full production here, when Adam Hester entrusted me with that opportunity. There was something sacred about passing that trust on to Eean. He returns to us after his third Broadway show, Ragtime at Lincoln Center. Alisha brings to her choreography the storyteller's eye that shapes her work as a director of both theatre and documentary film.

We're thrilled to welcome Abbey Fitzjarrell back to One Night Only. As in past concerts, Abbey brings a clear artistic vision and a poetic hand to every piece she creates. She has led numerous dance teams to competition victories and co-owns Key City Dance here in Abilene with her husband, Mark, who also teaches for ACU Theatre and Dance. We treasure their friendship and the care they continue to pour into our dancers.

I'm proud of our student choreographers for trusting their ideas to their fellow dancers, and of the dancers who bring those ideas to life. To our donors, thank you for giving our students the opportunity to work alongside artists who inspire them to try brave and beautiful things. May tonight's stories bring beauty, light, and love into our world.

Blessings,
Dawne Swearingen Meeks '95
Producing Artistic Director and Executive Director
Professor and Chair, ACU Department of Theatre

Supporting ACU Theatre

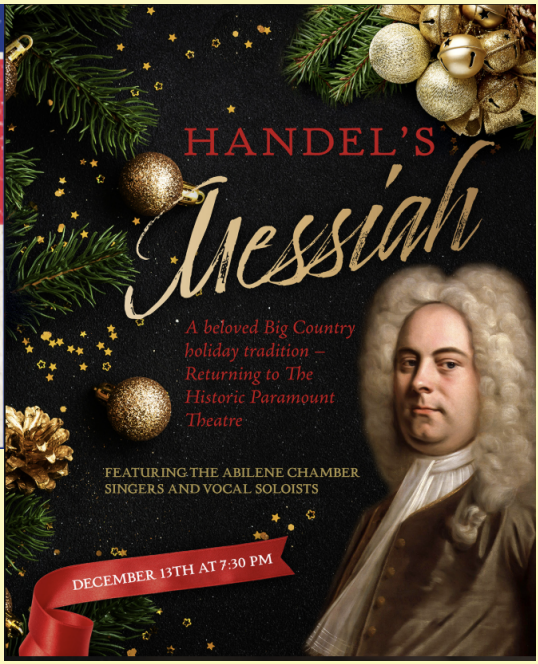
The ACU Theatre is indebted to our supporters for their generosity and sacrifices. Theatre alumni and other friends have created 16 endowed scholarships and underwritten productions, faculty development, and master classes.

If you would like the opportunity to support the artists of faith at ACU Theatre, visit acu.edu/theatre and click on Lights Up!

Upcoming Prospective Student Auditions:

- December 4th, 2026: Virtual Audition OR In Person Audition
- January 29th, 2027: Virtual Audition
- February 26th, 2027: In Person Audition
- April 23rd, 2027: Virtual Audition OR In Person Audition


HSU THEATRE PRESENTS
1776 the Musical
VAN ELLIS THEATRE
Nov. 19-21 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 22 at 2:00 p.m.
GET TICKETS >
HARDIN-SIMMONS
UNIVERSITY


HANDEL'S
Messiah
A beloved Big Country holiday tradition – Returning to The Historic Paramount Theatre
FEATURING THE ABILENE CHAMBER SINGERS AND VOCAL SOLOISTS
DECEMBER 13TH AT 7:30 PM


PARAMOUNT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
Disney
THE LITTLE MERMAID JR.
Music by
ALAN MENKEN
Lyrics by
HOWARD ASHMAN and GLENN SLATER
Book by
DOUG WRIGHT
New Lyrics to "Kiss the Girl" by Lin-Manuel Miranda
Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film
Music Adapted and Arranged by David Weinstein
January 15-17, 2027
WWW.PARAMOUNTABILENE.COM

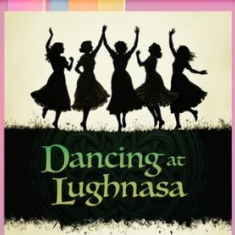
Please join us for our upcoming productions!



December 5th @ 7:30pm



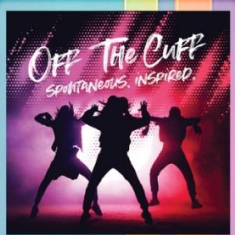
February 20th @ 2pm & 21st @ 7:30pm



February 26th & 27th @ 7:30pm & 28th @ 2pm



April 23rd & 24th @ 7:30pm & 25th @ 2pm



May 5th @ 7:30pm

www.acu.edu/theatre OR 325-674-ARTS