



Elizabeth Ann Clune Center For Theatre  
Leary Theatre

# NIAGARA UNIVERSITY THEATRE

2025-2026 Season

*"to hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature: to show virtue her feature,  
scorn her own image, and the very age and body of the time his form  
and pressure."*

*Hamlet, Act III scene 2*

Dramatically, Prince Hamlet's advice to the players has a specific agenda designed to advance the plot by revealing his uncle's treachery. In truth, though, good theatre often reflects the principles, values, and challenges of the world around us. It can truly serve as Hamlet's glass, allowing audiences to see themselves and their society in the reflection and create a space for dialogue, engagement with multiple perspectives and, perhaps, provide a springboard for social change.

We hope our season will do just that. While, on the surface, each of our productions tells an intriguing or captivating story designed to entertain, at the heart of each you may find some commentary about the world we live in that the playwright would like you to consider.

And, just maybe, talk about.

Steve Braddock  
Artistic Director, NU Theatre





**RE-ENVISIONING JOAN** OCTOBER 2-5  
**WITCH** OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2  
**RIDE THE CYCLONE** NOVEMBER 20-23  
**SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL** JANUARY 23-24  
**BURST** FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1  
**HURRICANE DIANE** MARCH 26-29  
**GODSPELL** APRIL 23 - MAY 3

**KEY**

**PSD** POST-SHOW DISCUSSION  
**FG** FRIENDS OF NU THEATRE GALA

# OCTOBER 2-5

Thursday October 2 7 p.m.

Friday October 3 7:30 p.m.

Saturday October 4 2 p.m.

Saturday October 4 7:30 p.m.

Sunday October 5 2 p.m. psd

**\$20** General Admission

**\$15** NU Employees/NU Alumni/  
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/  
Seniors (62 and over)

**\$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

Devised by Mara Neimanis and the cast  
Directed by Mara Neimanis

## RE-ENVISIONING JOAN

"...any experience carried out deeply, to its ultimate, leads you beyond yourself into a larger relation to the experience of others..."

Revisioning Joan is a thematic investigation of identity, myth vs. reality, resilience and faith, and the pursuit of freedom, all told through the complementary lenses of aerial work, George Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan*, and the students' own senses of what is relevant for them in our time.

Caution: strong adult language





# OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 2

Thursday October 30 7 p.m.

Friday October 31 7:30 p.m.

Saturday November 1 2 p.m.

Saturday November 1 7:30 p.m.

Sunday November 2 2 p.m. psd

**\$20** General Admission

**\$15** NU Employees/NU Alumni/  
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/  
Seniors (62 and over)

**\$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

by Jen Silverman  
Directed Steve Braddock

## WITCH

"I'm not arguing for the end of the world but then again maybe I am. This one anyway."

A charming devil arrives in the quiet village of Edmonton to bargain for the souls of its residents in exchange for their darkest wishes. As the devil returns again and again to convince Elizabeth, labeled as a witch by the villagers, unexpected passions flare, alliances are formed, and the village is forever changed. An inventive retelling of a Jacobean drama, this sharp, subversive fable debates how much our souls are worth when hope is hard to come by.

Caution: strong adult language, mature themes, and violence.





# NOVEMBER 20-23

Thursday November 20 7 p.m.

Friday November 21 7:30 p.m.

Saturday November 22 2 p.m.

Saturday November 22 7:30 p.m.

Sunday November 23 2 p.m. psd

**\$25** General Admission

**\$20** NU Employees/NU Alumni/  
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/  
Seniors (62 and over)

**\$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jacob Richmond and  
Brooke Maxwell

Directed by David Peterson

Music Direction by Bridget Moriarty

Choreography by Terri Vaughan

## RIDE THE CYCLONE

"I don't know how it is in your culture, but in ours, playing games where peoples' lives are on the table? Super illegal."

In this hilarious and outlandish story, the lives of six teenagers from a chamber choir are cut short in a freak accident aboard a roller coaster. When they awake in limbo, a mechanical fortune teller invites each to tell a story to win a prize like no other — the chance to return to life. A funny, moving look at what makes a life well-lived!

Caution: strong adult language and mature themes, discussion of death, violence, and grief.





# JANUARY 23-24

Friday January 23 7:30 p.m.

Saturday January 24 2 p.m.

Saturday January 24 7:30 p.m.

**\$20** General Admission

**\$15** NU Employees/NU Alumni/  
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/  
Seniors (62 and over)

**\$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

All Student-Directed

## SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL

*Life in ten minutes. Snapchat for theatre-goers.*

Comedies, dramas and everything in between – a smorgasbord of ten-minute plays. If one is not to your taste, you only have to wait 10 minutes until the next one.

Caution: some of the plays contain adult situations and language.





# FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 1

Friday February 27 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday February 28 2 p.m. psd  
Saturday February 28 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday March 1 2 p.m.

**\$10** All tickets. Proceeds to benefit the NU Players Club

By Rachel Bublitz  
All Student-Produced

## BURST

"We're doing the impossible here, you know that! And we can't- I don't want anyone limiting anyone else because of their own lack of imagination."

Sarah Boyd is an extraordinary human being. Not only did she build her company from scratch, she also sits on the precipice of truly saving this planet, ushering us into the post-plastic era—a time where we will no longer worry about destruction being done to our world from a non-biodegradable foe. Amidst this, Sarah must weather a particularly tough reporter, a lawsuit aimed at a person from her past and the waffling of her CTO. It's a heavy load, and Sarah knows that she is the only one great enough to bear it.

Caution: adult language





# March 26-29

Thursday March 26 7 p.m.  
Friday March 27 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday March 28 2 p.m.  
Saturday March 28 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday March 29 2 p.m. psd

**\$20** General Admission  
**\$15** NU Employees/NU Alumni/  
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/  
Seniors (62 and over)  
**\$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

By Madeline George  
Directed by Steve Braddock

## HURRICANE DIANE

Recognize me? No? God of agriculture, wine and song? It's cool, it's been a while."

In this wild comedy, the Greek god Dionysus takes form as Diane, a butch permaculture gardener from Vermont. She's on a mission to gather followers and restore the Earth to its natural state. Where better to begin than a New Jersey cul-de-sac and the suburban housewives who live there? Pulitzer Prize finalist Madeleine George pens a hilarious evisceration of the blind eye we all turn to climate change and the bacchanalian catharsis that awaits us, even in our own backyards.

Caution: strong adult language and mature themes.





# APRIL 23 - MAY 3

Thursday April 23 7 p.m.  
Friday April 24 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday April 25 2 p.m.  
Saturday April 25 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday April 26 2 p.m. psd  
Thursday April 30 7 p.m.  
Friday May 1 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday May 2 4 p.m. fg  
Sunday May 3 2 p.m.

**\$25** General Admission

**\$20** NU Employees/NU Alumni/  
Friends of NU Theatre/Youth/  
Seniors (62 and over)

**\$0** NU Students (w/NU ID)

Conceived and Originally Directed by  
John-Michael Tebelak  
Music and New Lyrics by Stephen Schwartz  
Directed by Robyn Lee  
Choreographed by Terri Vaughan  
Music Direction by Bridget Moriarty

## GODSPELL (2012 REVISED)

"Oh, Dear Lord three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day."

A masterful retelling of the original sensation, injected with contemporary references and dazzling new musical arrangements. A small group of people help Jesus Christ tell different parables by using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques and a hefty dose of comic timing. An eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, helps tell the story of Jesus' life through the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, revealing his enduring messages of kindness, tolerance and love.



# DIRECTIONS AND MAP



## The Leary Theatre within the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre in Clet Hall

From Buffalo, follow the New York State Thruway across Grand Island. Continue on I-190 to Exit 24, Witmer Road. Turn left (aka Route 31). At first traffic light, turn right.

At first stop sign (Hyde Park), turn right. Go through the first traffic light (Niagara gorge will be on your left; campus will be on your right). Turn right just before NY Power Authority. Park on right in Butler parking lot. Clet Hall is the first building on the right on Vincentian Drive.

If needed, use the circular drop-off driveway that leads directly to the lobby.



Elizabeth Ann Clune



# THREE WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS

**Online** we offer one of the lowest service fees online. To purchase tickets, select seat locations, and print tickets, simply go to: <http://theatre.niagara.edu/>.

**Ticket packages** make it simpler, you only need to input your personal information one time. Also, your preferred seat locations can be assigned to all ticket purchases (or the closest seats available). Commit to six productions (all but *Burst*) with a season subscription and earn a 10 percent discount.

**Multiple productions in one transaction.** Order two productions or more and only input your personal information one time.

**Visit** our box office in person in the lobby of the Elizabeth Ann Clune Center for Theatre, Clet Hall (Monday-Friday) 2:00-4:30 p.m. and one hour prior to curtain.

**Call or email us at** 716.286.8685 or [boxoffice@niagara.edu](mailto:boxoffice@niagara.edu). Voicemail messages and emails are returned as soon as possible.

**Please be prompt.** Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of theatre management.

**NU students** with a current undergraduate NU ID will gain student access to one performance of each theatre production (with the exception of *Burst* and the summer performances). Tickets may not be used for other students or patrons. At the time of reservation, the NU ID will be swiped for verification and eligibility, then the ticket will be held in WILL CALL for pick-up one hour to 15 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets not picked up within 10 minutes of the curtain will be made available to waiting patrons. If you would like to see a production more than once, then a discounted youth ticket may be purchased.

**Persons with disabilities** have full accessibility with the lobby elevator and circular driveway drop off. The front row is held for wheelchair patrons and their companions until the rest of the seats are sold, so please make your reservations sooner than later.

**Ticket refunds** are not allowed; however, exchanges prior to a performance are allowed whenever seats are available.

**Student rush policy** for any non-NU student, 21 or younger, with an ID, may be admitted free of charge when seats are available (with the exception of *Burst*). Such tickets will be distributed five minutes prior to curtain. If you would like to guarantee a ticket, then a discounted youth ticket may be purchased.

**Editor-in-Chief** Steven Braddock

**Graphic Designer** Suzanne Karaszewski

**Contributing Photographers** Mark Duggan, Dede Hatch, Brian Rock, Keirsten Thomas, and Terri Vaughan



## Membership Levels

Your donation is 100 percent tax deductible.

- ☐ Archangel ..... \$1,000
- ☐ Angel ..... \$750
- ☐ Producer ..... \$500
- ☐ Co-Producer ..... \$250
- ☐ Backer ..... \$200
- ☐ Director ..... \$150
- ☐ Assistant Director ..... \$100
- ☐ Stage Manager ..... \$75
- ☐ Production Assistant ..... \$50
- ☐ Rising Star ..... \$25  
..... (29 years old and younger)
- ☐ Annual Friends of NU Theatre Gala  
(Patron) ..... \$175

A special evening of great theatre, fine food, auctions and fabulous Friends to support the NU Theatre program. For more information, please call 716.286.8483.

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Friends of Niagara University Theatre**

To pay by credit card, please visit [friendsofnutheatre.ejoinme.org/membership](http://friendsofnutheatre.ejoinme.org/membership)

### MEMBER INFORMATION:

☐ New member    ☐ Renewal    Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Area code and phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### NU AFFILIATION:

Alumni - Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

Family - Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

For further information, call 716.286.8483.  
Mail to: Friends of Niagara University Theatre,  
P.O. Box 1851, Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-1851

## SUMMER

## N.U.R.T.

A rotating 45-minute repertoire of children's stories is performed for free during the months of July and August:

- On tour to daycare centers and summer camps
- On stage at the Leary Theatre in Clet Hall —  
Dates and times to be announced.



## Main Stage Production

NU Theatre often offers a summer musical or play on our main stage. Sometimes it is a Theatre for Young Audiences piece, such as 2024's *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* In past years it has been a production for older audiences, though still appropriate for all ages, such as *Musical of Musicals (The Musical)* or *A Sondheim Review*.

We will keep you posted if we will be able to offer another delightful production in the summer of 2026.







# A POWERFUL TRAINING EXPERIENCE

As one of the oldest professional theatre training programs in the region, Niagara University is well-known for preparing students for careers that take them anywhere from Broadway to Hollywood. One-on-one mentorship with theatre faculty gives increased confidence – both on-stage and offstage – throughout every step of the experiential learning process.

Since 1964, NU Theatre has proudly educated and entertained audiences through a variety of annual productions, giving students an artistic playground for growth and development and a heightened sense of purpose in their artistic pursuits. Moreover, our multi-faceted alumni network, consisting of artists with credits from Broadway, international tours, TV, and radio, can give a clarity of direction for the exciting future that awaits you.

# AUDITIONS *and* INTERVIEWS



For prospective and transfer students seeking entry into any of our BFA programs, applicants are required to attend one of our dates, typically held each Spring, to complete either an audition or an interview for their respective programs.

## Performance Applicant Requirements

1. **Monologue:** One-minute monologue of your choice from a play, prepared and memorized. Not to exceed two minutes.
2. **Vocal:** 60-90 seconds of a song, preferably from a musical, memorized and performed with musical accompaniment. Pianist will be provided.
3. **Movement:** This audition will be utilized to assess dance and movement placement.

## Design and Production Applicant Requirements

Each applicant for the design and production program will meet with the design faculty for 30 minutes to present a prepared portfolio. Additionally, applicants should be prepared to discuss their theatre experience, career aspirations, and expectations at NU. The portfolio should include a maximum of 15 samples that primarily reflect the applicant's technical theatre production experience.

## Theatre Specialization Applicant Requirements

Applicants for the theatre specialization programs must complete an interview with faculty members from the department of theatre and fine arts. Due to the varying demands of each emphasis (directing, dramaturgy, and playwriting), applicants will have the option to audition and/or present a portfolio of his/her work.

For more information, please visit us at [www.niagara.edu/theatre](http://www.niagara.edu/theatre).



P.O. Box 1913  
Niagara University, N.Y. 14109-1913

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more information