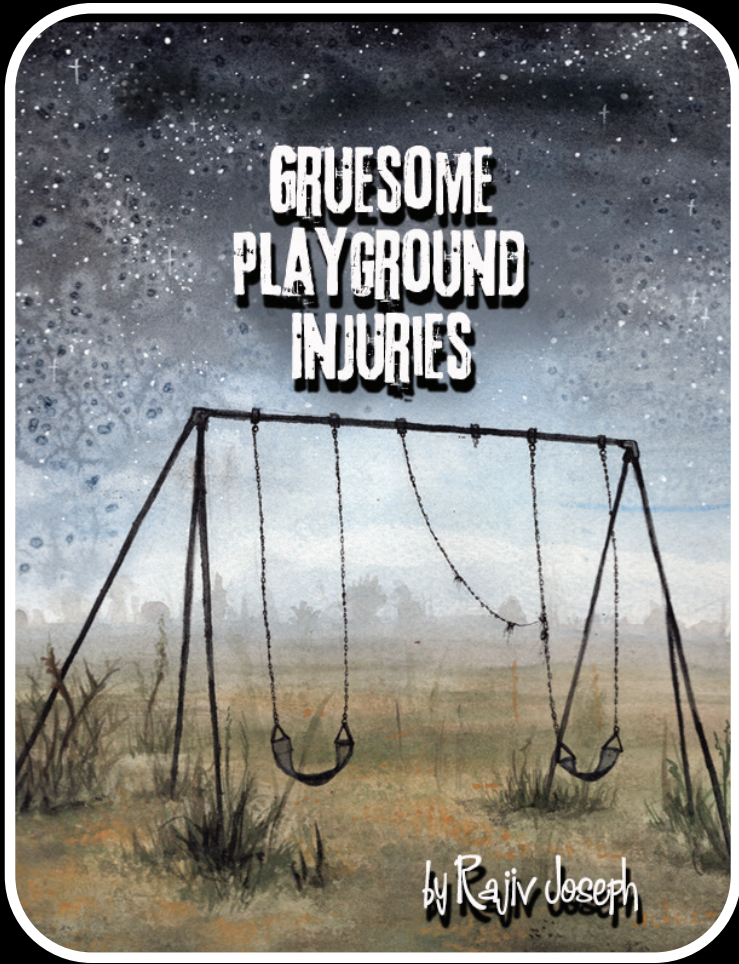


THE MONMOUTH COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

PRESENTS



FEBRUARY 25-28, 2021  
FUSION THEATRE



1853

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

IN THESE STRANGE AND CHALLENGING TIMES, it is an absolute joy and privilege to be able to come together with a group of artists and create something.

For almost a year, live theatre has been almost non-existent professionally and academically. I am proud of the resilience and creativity of the Monmouth College Theatre Department, which has produced a full season of theatre, including live and virtual viewing options for all of productions. At the end of this academic year, we will have produced a full five-show season of plays, all while keeping our students, our staff and faculty, and our community safe.

Telling stories is a privilege, and a responsibility. Thank you for letting us share this story with you. Thank you for supporting the arts at Monmouth College. Enjoy the show.

—TODD QUICK  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF THEATRE



### **COMING APRIL 15–18** **to Wells Theater**

The Broadway musical version of Louisa May Alcott's beloved autobiographical novel, following the adventures of sisters Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March during the Civil War era.

**Directed by Dr. Vanessa Campagna**

THE MONMOUTH COLLEGE  
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# *GRUESOME PLAYGROUND INJURIES*

*BY RAJIV JOSEPH*

Directed by Todd Quick

February 25–28, 2021

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 pm | Sunday 2 pm

Fusion Theatre

Produced by Special Arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

*Gruesome Playground Injuries* will run approximately one hour and 30 minutes,  
without an intermission.

WARNING:

This production contains mature content and language.

Please silence all electronics.

Restrooms and drinking fountains are located in the lobby.

Photography and recording of any kind is prohibited.

## TIME

Over the course of 30 years.

## PLACE

Various locations.

## CAST

**KAYLEEN** .....Kaitlin Fisher (Thurs./Sat.)

Emma Wohlstadter (Fri./Sun.)

**DOUG** ..... Cullen Marshall (Thurs./Sat.)

Andrew Cliffler (Fri./Sun.)

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director .....	Todd Quick
Stage Manager/Assistant Director.....	Gabriela Madu
Scenic Design .....	Doug Rankin
Assistant Scenic Design .....	Grace Cornelius
Costume Design .....	Rebecca Bean
Assistant Costume Design.....	Celeste Lythgoe
Makeup Design .....	Olivia Croasdale
Lighting Design .....	Doug Rankin
Sound Design.....	Todd Quick
Dramaturg .....	Melanie Delbridge
Run Crew .....	Marcus Albers Conner Campbell Will Ewald Colby McMillan Josh Salter Gwenavier Schultz Johnathon Spence Nate Thornton
Box Office Manager.....	Madelyn Bird
Poster Illustration and Design .....	Stella Narkiewicz

## SPECIAL THANKS

President Clarence R. Wyatt and First Lady Lobie Stone  
Professor Doug Rankin  
Dr. Vanessa Campagna  
Valerie Cambron  
Barb Barclay  
Emma Quick  
Axline's Pharmacy

## CAST



Andrew Cliffl

**Andrew Cliffl** (DOUG) is a sophomore Theatre and Music major from Lakewood, Ohio. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Postman/Constable in *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, *Fusion Fest VI*, *Fusion Fest VII*, Major Magnus Muldoon in *The Real Inspector Hound*, and Dwight in *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Other Monmouth College activities include Chorale, Chamber Choir, Crimson Masque, and Sigma Phi Epsilon. He would like to thank everyone for coming and supporting the show during these hard times.



Kaitlyn Fisher

**Kaitlyn Fisher** (KAYLEEN) is a junior Music and Psychology major from Monmouth, Illinois. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Milkmaid in *Oliver!*, Aunt Nellie in *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, and Ejlif in *An Enemy of the People*. Other Monmouth College activities include Chorale, Chamber Choir, and Stockdale Fellows.



Cullen Marshall

**Cullen Marshall** (DOUG) is a junior Biology major from Kewanee, Ill. Previous Monmouth College Theatre credits include Hovstad in *An Enemy of the People*. Other Monmouth College activities include Sigma Phi Epsilon and Interfraternity Council. Cullen would like to thank his family and his Sig Ep brothers for all their love and support.



Emma Wohlstadter

**Emma Wohlstadter** (KAYLEEN) is a sophomore Theatre and International Business double major from Macomb, Ill. Previous Monmouth College credits include the Narrator/stage manager in *An Enemy of the People* and *Fusion Fest VIII*. Other Monmouth activities include cross country, track and field, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Stockdale Fellows, and Alpha Lambda Delta honor society. Emma would like to thank her parents and grandma for always supporting her and her professors for always pushing her to leave everything on the stage.

## PLAYWRIGHT



Rajiv Joseph

**Rajiv Joseph** was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. His mother is of French and German ancestry and his father immigrated from India. A 1996 graduate of Miami University with a creative writing major, he joined the Peace Corps, serving in Senegal. He has taught Essay Writing at New York University and, in addition to his plays, has written for the Showtime series *Nurse Jackie*.

## DRAMATURG'S NOTE

IN INNUMERABLE STORIES from *Twelfth Night* to *Scott Pilgrim Versus the World*, love has been portrayed as a source of pain. *Gruesome Playground Injuries* examines why people are willing to go through pain to feel loved. Told in a non-linear fashion, *Gruesome Playground Injuries* details the intense 30-year relationship between daredevil Doug and Kayleen, who struggles to fully embrace Doug or her own emotions.

In an interview with Rogue Machine Theatre, playwright Rajiv Joseph describes the dramatic question of *Gruesome Playground Injuries* as "why do we hurt ourselves to gain someone else's love". He describes his inspiration coming from a conversation with a childhood friend, "... I hadn't any idea of the amount of injuries he had gone through. And as he was telling me all these injuries of different stages of his life, I thought...you could write a memoir and every chapter could be an injury. And then I thought about how injuries could chart an experience, a relationship, a lifetime, and that kind of brought me down the path writing this story about Doug and Kayleen".

Joseph further describes *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, "This play is funny...Without humor, you'd be faced with a pretty grim narrative." Joseph explains his use of non-linear storytelling, "The jumping around in ages was kind of important to me...It acts as a sort of the way most of us will recount our lives...a prism of memory that is disjointed and connected through something that is not necessarily time, but emotion and sensation and pain."

In the same interview, Rajiv Joseph describes his writing career beginning while he was growing up in Cleveland Heights, Ohio when he received a homework assignment to keep a journal during a family vacation to India when Joseph was 10 years old. He continued journaling during a three-year stint in the Peace Corps in Senegal, which he credits for his success in dramatic writing, stating "Living in a country like that... you have to shift your perspective. Shifting of perspective is, I think, part of what makes a good writer for fiction or drama; you have to put yourself in other people's shoes". Upon returning to the states he pursued a career as a screenwriter but found himself drawn to playwriting. A prolific rising star, Joseph debuted on Broadway to rave reviews of his play *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo*, which featured Robin Williams as the tiger.

*Gruesome Playground Injuries* was first produced at the Alley Theatre starring Selma Blair in 2009. Joseph continues to write plays, such as *The North Pool*, *The Lake Effect*, and *Guards at the Taj*, which earned an Obie in 2016 for Best New American Play. Joseph also has written screenplays for film and for the series *Nurse Jackie*. In addition to the theme of love as pain in *Gruesome Playground Injuries*, Joseph explores blindness, faith healing and self-harm through the play's injuries. Self-harm can take many forms, including cutting, burning or hitting oneself. If you or someone you know is struggling with self-harm, help is available from many organizations. If you're not sure where to turn, call the S.A.F.E. Alternatives information line in the U.S. at 1-800-366-8288 for referrals and support for cutting and self-harm.



# The Kennedy Center

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein.***

*Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Charitable Trust for supporting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.*

*Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.*

*Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.*

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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**Free, 24/7, Confidential**