



PRESENTED BY WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE

FAR AWAY

by Caryl Churchill

Directed by Cindy Gendrich | Ring Theatre

October 27-28 & November 2-4 at 7:30 PM

October 29 & November 5 at 2:00 PM



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

One of my first life-changing theatre experiences was seeing Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine* at Steppenwolf in 1984. Since then, nearly every new Churchill play has inspired me, taught me, and rearranged my sense of how theatre can speak to the world--but none more than *Far Away*. The structure of the scenes, the compression of plot and language, the thematic complexity, the play's surprises and its ability to unnerve: all these reveal a playwright at the height of her powers.

Far Away can be seen as a piece of dystopian poetry. A warning. A meditation on things going wrong. It doesn't look like our American dystopias. However, its themes, particularly its grounding in fear, tap into a dystopian sensibility, and into things we Americans have been experiencing and talking about a lot lately. Plus there are hats. And cookies. And a fashion show--sort of. There's even a little love story.

I had the great fortune of working this summer with a wonderful student dramaturg, Anne Peyton Brothers (who also plays Joan in the production), digging into dystopian research (and recent war-focused plays, and of course *Far Away*) in readiness for our short rehearsal period. Along with the other actors, we've talked about honesty, trust, privilege--and their opposites. We've explored how readily we human beings turn our eyes away from unfairness and brutality when we are the ones benefiting from it. We've talked about how fear can multiply, magnify, and expand—and what it does to us when our choices are made out of fear and indifference. We have talked a lot about war, particularly the kinds of diffuse and unending wars the world experiences now. And we kept coming back to how rigid notions of “us” and “them” imprison us, narrow us, and make us mean, stupid, paranoid, and ridiculous.

I'm excited to see what ideas and feelings this play conjures for you all--and I hope you'll leave yourself open to its rich metaphorical gifts. I'm so grateful for the intrepid dramaturg/actors, designers, stage management, assistants (thank you Habby, for all your help with the “parade!”), crew members, and hat makers who have so deeply immersed themselves in it. If this play is a little test—of our willingness to encounter things (or people) we might not easily understand, and take the time to get to know them--they've aced it.

SPECIAL THANKS

Ben Hurst
Harmony Ridge Farms
IPLAcE
URECA
Jan Gendrich
The Little Theatre of Winston-Salem

Wake Forest University Theatre presents

FAR AWAY

by Caryl Churchill

October 27-29 & November 2-5, 2017

Director
Cindy Gendrich

Scenic & Lighting Designer
Rob Eastman-Mullins

Costume Designer
Mary Wayne-Thomas

Sound Designers
Kevin Frazier
Cheyenne Zuck^{*§}

Assistant Director
Habby Olusesi

Dramaturg
Anne Peyton Brothers^{*§}

Stage Manager
Anna Hibbert^{*}

CAST

JOAN.....Anne Peyton Brothers^{*§}
HARPER.....Erin Farmer[§]
TODD.....Christian Carty
CONVICTS.....John Cooper^{*}, Amanda Cummins
Ria Matheson^{*}, Tiffany Nunez
Habby Olusesi, Cameron Smith[§]
Beatrix Yon, Chris Yon, Julianne Zhu

^{*}Anthony Aston Players member

[§]Presidential Scholar in Theatre

INFORMATION

In consideration of performers and other patrons, please turn off any laptops, cell phones and electronic alarms. Please remember that any use of cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the theatre. Smoking is prohibited in the building. Any audience member disturbing other patrons or causing a disruption may be asked to leave without a refund or exchange of ticket.

Due to hazards to the performers and crew, re-admission into the Ring Theatre is NOT allowed during the performance. This production runs approximately one hour long without an intermission.

Far Away is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

BIOGRAPHIES



Anne Peyton Brothers (Dramaturg & Joan) is a junior from Roanoke, Virginia. She is a Theatre and Philosophy double major with a minor in English. Previous Wake productions include *Macbeth*, *Collidescope 3.0*, *Spark*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She would like to thank

Cindy for leading such a wonderful deep dive into dystopia. Nightmares allow us to see reality more clearly, and this play proves as much.



Christian Carty (Todd) is incredibly excited to be working on his third show here at Wake Forest. You might recognize him from his run as Miles in *She Kills Monsters*. He would like to thank his beautiful parents for being the most supportive individuals that they could

possibly be and every member of the cast and crew for making this such a genuinely fun and enjoyable experience. Lastly, he would like to thank Cindy for her incredible insights and the ridiculous amount that he has learned from her. She is such an amazing person and has made this such an incredible experience. He would like to sincerely thank anybody else who made this possible, and he hopes that everyone enjoys the show!



John Cooper (Convict) is a junior Politics and International Affairs major who is also minoring in Theatre. This is his first performance in a Wake Forest Stage. He would like to thank his theatre family for supporting him both on and off the stage, and Cindy for giving him the opportunity to wear a fancy hat.



Amanda Cummins (Convict) is a freshman from Westchester, New York. This is her first production at Wake. Her notable roles in high school include Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Lorraine in *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. She would like to thank the cast and crew for putting on a

such a special and moving production. Break a leg guys!



Erin Farmer (Harper) is a senior Psychology & Theatre double major from Dalton, Georgia (the carpet capital of the world, as she tells everyone). She is so excited to be back on the Wake Forest stage, albeit in the Ring. You may remember seeing her in *Love's Labour's*

Lost, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Macbeth*. Or you may remember her simply because she's the girl who always has a dog with her. She would like to thank Cindy for giving her the pleasure of working with her again, Anna for putting up with her panic attacks, her parents for always being her best friends and biggest fans, and special thanks to Connor for being her greatest joy. She couldn't have done it without any of you. Well, she probably could have, but it would been a lot harder. Enjoy the show and down with crocodiles!



Anna Hibbert (Stage Manager) is a junior Computer Science & Theatre double major from Asheville, NC. She is absolutely ecstatic to be stage managing this incredible production of *Far Away!* While she has previously stage managed *The Tiny Closet*, stage management is a recent addition to her theatre credits. At Wake, she has performed in several productions including *She Kills Monsters*, *The Stronger*, and *Honk!, Jr.* When she is not in rehearsal, she can still be found in Scales as the treasurer of Wake's theatre organization, Anthony Aston Players. She'd like to thank Cindy, Habby, and the entire cast and crew for making this such a wonderful stage management experience!



Ria Matheson (Convict) is a sophomore Theatre and Health & Exercise Science double major with a Dance minor from Midlothian, Virginia. Previously at Wake Forest, Ria has acted in *Honk! Jr.*, and she excited to be back on the stage once again! She has been involved backstage on *Macbeth* and *She Kills Monsters*. When she's not in rehearsal, Ria can still be found in Scales as part of the Dance Company, Setting the Groove, and the Anthony Aston Players. She would like to thank the cast and crew, Anna, and Cindy for making this production the best it can possibly be.



Tiffany Nunez (Convict) is a sophomore from Newark, New Jersey. This is her second performance at Wake Forest University. You may recognize her as Evil Gabbi from the Wake Forest production of *She Kills Monsters*. She studied theater at Arts High School in Newark and attended

the Summer Program at Circle in the Square Theatre School. She would like to congratulate her cast and crew on all their hard work. She also would like to thank Cindy, Habby, and Anna for letting her join this amazing cast and her parents for all their support.



Habby Olusesi (Assistant Director & Convict) is excited to be a part of this production of *Far Away*. The camaraderie of the cast and crew has been amazing and has allowed for greater creative drive. She would like to thank Cindy for inspiring her and teaching her many of the nuances of

directing. She is proud of the work that's been done and hopes to work with all of these talented people in the future.



Cameron Smith (Convict) is a freshman from Raleigh, North Carolina. This is her first Wake Forest production, and she has loved working with such an amazing cast. She hopes to major in Communication with a minor in Theatre. She would like to thank Cindy for letting her be a part of

such a wonderful cast, and a big thank you/ shout-out to Habby and Anna for all of their hard work to bring this show to life! Congrats to all of the cast and crew for their hard work on this production!



Beatrix Yon (Convict) is thrilled to make her theatrical debut in Cindy Gendrich's production of *Far Away* by Caryl Churchill. Bea is in Kindergarten at Arts Based Elementary School. She enjoys dancing and drawing. She lives in Winston Salem with her mom and dad.



Chris Yon (Convict) is a choreographer, teacher, and administrator. This fall, Chris and his partner Taryn Griggs are touring a dance they made together as part of the North Carolina Dance Festival. He is an adjunct instructor at Appalachian State University where he teaches Beginning Ballet and Modern Dance. On the day of the Great American Eclipse, Yon joined the Wake Forest community as an Administrative Assistant for IPLACe, but he is best known on campus as Bea's dad.



Julianne Zhu (Convict) is a freshman from Shanghai, China. Her favorite high/middle school plays are *Mama Mia!* and *The Sound of Music*, and she is just a little obsessed with *The Phantom of the Opera*. The last show she participated in is *She Kills Monsters*, in which she worked as a dresser. *Far Away* is her first time being on stage at Wake Forest. She enjoys being a convict/model and wearing gorgeous hats, and she would like to thank everyone in this production for making a fabulous show.



Cheyenne Zuck (Co-Sound Designer) is a senior Theatre and Ancient Greek double major from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She is a Presidential Scholar in Theatre and a Jordan Scholar. During the last three years, she has worked in varying capacities on multiple productions in the University Theatre. She most recently designed sound on *She Kills Monsters* and looks forward to working on *A Bright Room Called Day* and *Spring Awakening*. She extends her enormous thanks to Kevin and Cindy for the opportunity, their encouragement, and their help with the process. She'd also like to thank her Wake Theatre family for dealing with her extraordinary need for naps. Enjoy the show!

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Managers.....	Isabella Cornea [§] , Paige Edmonds
Properties Master.....	Riley Phillips
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Christian Ricci
Master Carpenter.....	Price Dawson
Master Electrician.....	Christian Ricci
Lead Scenic Artist.....	Jyles Rodgers
Scenic Artsits.....	Courtney Geiger, Cheyenne Zuck ^{*§}
Carpenters.....	Jyles Rodgers, Cheyenne Zuck ^{*§} , Courtney Geiger Christian Ricci, Isabella Cornea [§] , Jake duPlooy Hugo Hernandez Villagra, Monty King
Additional Production Assistance.....	THE 150 class: Intro to Design & Production
Milliner.....	Tyler Wilson
Hat Makers.....	Bree Patsey, Riley Phillips, Ria Matheson* Megan Nigro, Lily Wieland, Cindy Gendrich, Erick Mora
Costume Shop Assistants.....	Emma Kennett, Megan Nigro, Ria Matheson* Riley Phillips, Ella Andrew, Madeleine Ash ^{*§}
Wardrobe Assistants.....	Danielle Poole, Kimberly Du, Vonnie White
Grips.....	Jonathan Chen, Eliza Drake
Light Board Operator.....	Cameron Hajjafar
Sound Board Operator.....	Junyi (Evie) Luo
Photographers.....	Bill Ray III, Ken Bennett, Habby Olusesi
House Managers.....	Jake Skillings ('14), Hope Peterson ('17)
Box Office Staff.....	Eli Bradley ^{*§} , Payton Calvert, Ben Diehl, Anna Hibbert* Hannah Menaker*, Habby Olesesi, Jayson Pugh
Ushers.....	APO Fraternity, Anthony Aston Players, WFU Dance Company

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Director of Theatre/Associate Teaching Professor.....	J. E. R. Friedenberg
Administrative Coordinator.....	Carol Lavis
Staff Assistant.....	Richard Williams
Technical Director.....	R. Trevor Anderson
Collections Manager.....	Alice Burton Barsony
Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Tyler Wilson
Audience Services Coordinator.....	Leslie Spencer
Instructional Technology Specialist.....	Ryan McCollum
Social Media Managers.....	Katy Milian*, Betsy Mann*, Cat Mizzi ^{*§}
Office Assistants.....	Madeleine Ash ^{*§} , Betsy Mann*, Lily Wieland*
Department Chair/Professor.....	Nina Maria Lucas
Director of Dance/Associate Professor.....	Christina Tsoules Soriano
Associate Chair/Associate Professor.....	Rob Eastman-Mullins
Professors.....	Sharon Andrews, Dr. Cindy Gendrich, Mary Wayne-Thomas
Associate Professors.....	Dr. J.K. Curry, Dr. Brook Davis
Assistant Professor.....	Kevin Frazier
Teaching Professor.....	Lynn Book
Associate Professor of the Practice.....	Brantly Shapiro
Associate Teaching Professor.....	Leah Roy
Assistant Teaching Professors.....	Chris Martin, Michael Kamtman
Post-Graduate Teaching Fellows.....	Dahlia Al-Habieli, Jessie Laurita-Spanglet
Part-Time Instructors.....	Michael Huie, Debra Sayles, Robert Simpson, Tina Yarborough-Liggins
Accompanists.....	Ray Ebert, Kelly Hammond, Dan Knight, Hashim Saleh

*Anthony Aston Players member

♦Presidential Scholar in Dance

§Presidential Scholar in Theatre

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2017-2018 Season

October 19, 2017

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Dr. James & Patricia Toole[‡]

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[‡] Wake Forest alumni

Fall Faculty & Guest Artist Concert

Directed by Nina Maria Lucas

November 16-18 at 7:30

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Tedford Main Stage

Tickets: \$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens, \$7 students

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The Adding Machine

by Elmer Rice

Directed by Brook Davis

Feb. 16-17 & 22-24 at 7:30 PM

Feb. 18 & 25 at 2:00 PM

Tedford Main Stage

Tickets: \$15 adults,
\$12 senior citizens, \$7 students

336.758.5295

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