

Content info and Casting Breakdown

Auditions for Spring 2025

Department of Theatre and Dance – Theatre Program

MAURITIUS

Written by: Theresa Rebeck

Directed by: Erica Tobolski

Rehearsal Start: January 15, 2025 (1st informal read-thru early December 2024)

Tech Dates: Feb 13-19 (no tech Feb 16)

Performances: Feb 20-Mar 1, 2025

Synopsis: From <https://stageagent.com/shows/play/11489/mauritus>

Theresa Rebeck's *Mauritius* is a tightly paced, two-act, surprising comedic thriller, a look at a seedy and rarified world of philatelic (stamp collecting) subterfuge, with a dark center of family pain.

Content Notes: The script deals with estranged half-sisters who battle over family inheritance. Tension and deceit are undercurrents throughout the story. Extensive use of the F-word by the character Sterling. Moments of theatrical violence will be developed and choreographed in collaboration with a guest fight director.

Casting Breakdown:

JACKIE (F): Any race, late teens-early 20s. Younger half-sister to Mary, financially desperate following the recent death of their mother; seems unsophisticated on the surface but can be steely when necessary. A sense of attraction between her and Dennis. Is the perpetrator and victim of hand-to-hand violence, choreographed with a fight director.

MARY (F): Any race, late 20s-to early 30s. Older half-sister to Jackie, has been absent for many years, including during the death of their mother. Is educated and sure of herself and might be viewed as morally superior until we see another side of her. Is the recipient of violence at the hands of Jackie.

DENNIS (M): Any race, 20s-30s. A small-time grifter who has street-smarts and can be charming. Will cheat to get ahead and enjoys playing the games necessary to make a living. Attracted to Jackie initially for a stamp deal, but comes to admire her tenacity. He is still capable of caring for other human beings. A sense of attraction between he and Jackie. Not violent, but crosses physical boundaries.

PHILLIP (M): White, 40s-50s. Owner of a stamp store for collectors that has seen better days. His arrogance towards others with lesser knowledge far exceeds his success and ambition. Has been deeply wounded in the past and retreats from emotional generosity. Is the recipient of physical man-handling by Sterling.

STERLING (M): White, 40s-60s. A high-stakes dealer in shadowy schemes. Has worked his way up to ever-larger deals, many of them probably illegal. He has a personal lust for rare stamps and will not hesitate to take advantage of someone to make a transaction. Ruthless and easily capable of violence if necessary. Carries a concealed weapon.

TWELFTH NIGHT

Written by: William Shakespeare

Directed by: Guest Director Carolyn Howarth

Rehearsal Start:

Tech Dates:

Performances: April 11-18, 2025

Synopsis: Viola and her twin brother Sebastian have been shipwrecked; each believes the other drowned. She disguises herself as a young man and, under the name of Cesario, gets a job as a servant for Duke Orsino.

Orsino is in love with Olivia, but she's mourning her dead brother, so has rejected all his advances. He sends Cesario with love letters to woo Olivia on his behalf. Unfortunately for the Duke, Olivia falls in love with the messenger.

Viola has secretly fallen in love with Orsino, who is confused by his feelings for his new servant.

Olivia's butler, Malvolio, disapproves of all the other members of her household - her drunken uncle Sir Toby Belch, his friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek, and her servants - Maria, Feste and Fabian. Fed up with Malvolio constantly spoiling their fun, they decide to play a practical joke on him. Malvolio is secretly in love with Olivia, and the others trick him into believing that these feelings are returned. Maria forges a letter to Malvolio, suggesting that Olivia loves him and he should wear yellow stockings and smile all the time. Malvolio does as the letter suggests, and Olivia thinks he has gone mad, so has him locked up.

Sebastian, who believes his sister is dead, arrives with his friend and protector, Antonio, who rescued him from the shipwreck.

Sebastian meets Olivia. She mistakes him for Cesario and asks him to marry her. He agrees.

Lots of confusion follows around the mistaken identity of Sebastian and Cesario. Eventually all is revealed, the brother and sister are reunited, and the love triangle is resolved.

Finally Olivia discovers the trick that has been played on Malvolio and he's released from confinement.

Content Notes:

Confronts issues around gender identity and class. Some stage violence. Some overt sexual language. Bullying. Minimal intimacy which could include hand holding, embraces, kissing.

Casting Breakdown:

1. VIOLA: Female. Disguises herself as a male. Some stage combat. Potential intimacy such as an embrace or kiss.
2. SEBASTIAN: Male. Some stage combat. Potential intimacy such as an embrace or kiss.
3. ANTONIO: Male or Female. Some stage combat.
4. ORSINO: Male. Potential intimacy such as an embrace or kiss.
5. OLIVIA: Female. Potential intimacy such as an embrace or kiss.
6. SIR TOBY BELCH: Male. Occasional explicit sexual language. Some stage combat. Potential intimacy such as an embrace or kiss.
7. SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK: Male. Occasional explicit language. Some stage combat.
8. MALVOLIO: Male or Female. Victim of practical joke.
9. MARIA: Female. Occasional explicit language. Potential intimacy such as an embrace or kiss.
10. FESTE: Male or Female. Occasional explicit language. Must sing.

11. FABIAN: Male or Female. Occasional explicit language. Some stage combat.
12. SEA CAPTAIN/SERVANT: Male or Female.
13. VALENTINE/PRIEST: Male or Female.
14. CURIO/Second OFFICER: Male or Female. Some stage combat
15. First OFFICER/Sailor: Male or Female. Some stage combat.

Activity Placemats

Written by Kirk McGee

Directed by Lyle Browne

Rehearsal Start: 1/13/25

Tech Dates: 2/19-2/26

Performances: Month Feb 27-March 2

Synopsis: *Romantic Comedy-Kirk McGee's sharp-witted comedy takes us into the frantic backdrop of a wedding-gone-hilariously-wrong, as four members of the wedding party struggle against overwhelming obstacles to make everything perfect while dealing with their own messy histories.*

Content Notes: Frank discussions about past relationships and current interest in other characters. Involves choreographed physical intimacy, potential kissing on the neck & shoulder massage.

Casting Breakdown:

2f/3m

JOAN: Female, The Maid of Honor. She is fiercely neurotic and cherishes her dear friends. She is a control freak who hates surprises. She only loves change as long as it's on her terms. Shoulder/neck massage in scene with Simon.

WINNIE: Female, the Bridesmaid. This is her ninth wedding as a bridesmaid in three months and she is exhausted. Despite bravely hiding behind her vices of sarcasm, pessimism, and marijuana, secretly, she wishes to find true love and happiness. Although, she is equally terrified of what she will have to give up to make it happen.

SIMON: Male, The Best Man. He is the devoted boyfriend of Joan, who struggles with his own identity and purpose in life. He feels more comfortable with change when it's thrust onto him. Shoulder/neck massage in scene with Joan.

TOM: Male, The Groomsman. He is nice and patient to a fault. He has a longtime secret crush on Winnie and looks to take their relationship to the next level, but without any risk or burden on to others. However, he is forced to step up when another suitor threatens his plan.

HAL: Male, The Officiant ordained online. He goes wherever the wind carries him and enjoys the perks of the wedding season. He tries to remain optimistic in the face of adversity. He also looks to rekindle the brief tryst with Winnie at a previous wedding.