

OCTOBER 13-16

MEDIEVAL CRIMES DINNER SHOW



November 17-20



MARS  HILL
UNIVERSITY 1856
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS

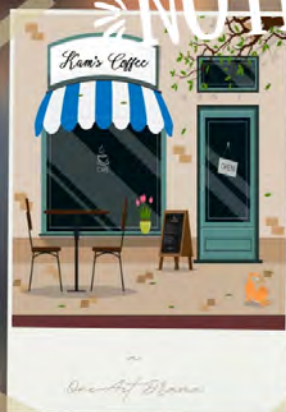
2022/2023
SEASON

SWEET
CHARITY



MARCH 23-26

A MOMENT'S
NOTICE



April 28th

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Please turn off all mobile phones and electronic devices and keep them off during the duration of the performance. Refrain from all flash photography and recording devices during the show.

Thank you!

WHO'S WHO



Arris Baldwin is a senior Theatre Arts major at Mars Hill University. Arris has been performing for twelve years. He has participated behind the scenes as Assistant Stage Manager and usher. Arris wants to make a difference in someone's life as teacher, friend and mentor with love, knowledge, wisdom and faith.



Alondra Barrera-Hernandez is a Musical Theatre major at Mars Hill University. They are a native of Rutherfordton, North Carolina. Alondra has recently been a part of SART's Internship and shows such as: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (ensemble), *The Rainbow Fish* (Pufferfish), and *The Wedding Singer* (Asst. Stage Manager). They plan to graduate in 2024 and work professionally as an actor onstage.



Jared Benain is a sophomore Theatre Arts major at Mars Hill University with a concentration in Acting/Directing. Jared has appeared on stage in *A Raisin in the Sun* as Travis, *The Wiz* as an ensemble member, *Shakespeare in Love* as Wabash, *Hats* as Carl. Jared has also been in a couple films, *Things Not Forgotten* as young Carl and *Unconditional* as Bradley. He plans to further his career in the film industry after graduation.



Ivy Brooks is a sophomore Musical Theatre major. She is a native of Washington, DC, and has been performing for seven years. Ivy plans to graduate with her BFA in Musical Theatre in 2025. After graduation, she plan to pursue a master's in theatre arts education. Ivy plans to move to New York City and perform professionally. After performing for a few years, she plans to teach at a college or university. Ivy also plays Division 2 Lacrosse and wants to coach at the high school or college level someday.



Emma-Leigh Brookshire is a junior this year at Mars Hill University. She is from Asheville, North Carolina. You may have seen her this summer in SART's productions of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Rainbow Fish*, or *The Wedding Singer*. She is a member of the national theatre fraternity, Alpha Psi Omega, and plans on graduating with her BFA in Musical Theatre and furthering her education with a Master of Arts in Teaching Theatre Arts.



Katie Crutcher is a senior at Mars Hill University. She is majoring in Theatre Arts with a concentration in Technology/Design. She has worked on multiple shows, including stage managing *The London Merchant* and *Cinderella*; and running followspot for *Side By Side By Sondheim*. Katie has also worked at Hickory Community Theatre on shows such as *The Pirate Queen* and *Memphis*.



Dalton Davidson is a senior double majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance & Economics, and in Theatre with a concentration in Acting & Singing. Along with that, Dalton is acquiring two minors, in Spanish and in Dance. He is a native of Pratt, Kansas, and is a team captain for the Mars Hill University Men's Swim Team. He is a part of many organizations on campus, including the Social Media

Director of Alpha Psi Omega Theatre Honor Society. Dalton has performed in *Side By Side* as Dalton, *Little Shop of Horrors* as an ensemble and dance member, and *Cinderella* as an ensemble and dance member here at Mars Hill. He plans to graduate in 2023, and plans to pursue a career in dance. He also plans on attending Stanford University where he will acquire his Master of Business Administration.



Samuel Evans is a sophomore Dance minor who has competed in clogging and tap for 18 years. He looks forward to performing in productions here at Mars Hill University, both in the theatre department and with the 29-time national winning Bailey Mountain Cloggers.



Blake Freeman is a senior majoring in Theatre Arts at Mars Hill University. Since joining the theatre department last year, Blake has served on the production crews for *Little Shop of Horrors*, *London Merchant* and *Cinderella* in lighting and sound. One of his biggest goals is to work with actors with disabilities. He plans on graduating in the spring of 2022.



Faith Giles is currently a junior at Mars Hill University double majoring in Theatre Arts and English. In her time at Mars Hill, she stage managed for the Student Directors' Showcase, ran the light booth for that show, ran the sound booth for the musical *Little Shop of Horrors*, and participated in *Cinderella*. Before coming to Mars Hill, Faith attended Watauga High School where she was heavily involved in the theatre program. There, you may have seen her in the shows *Guys and Dolls*, *Cinderella*, *Newsies*, or *Ernest and the Pale Moon*. In the future, Faith hopes to continue to grow in her acting and playwriting abilities at Mars Hill and beyond.



Jaime-Lynn Garcia-Lopez is a junior English major and Musical Theatre minor at Mars Hill University. She has performed in *Once On this Island* as Erzulie and Ronette from *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Maria* in *London Merchant* and *Grace* in *Cinderella*. Her skills also include playing the viola.



James Greene is a junior at Mars Hill University as a General Theatre major and a Business Administration minor. He has performed in *The London Merchant* as Uncle Barnwell and has been a part of theatre since middle school. He hopes to focus more on and pursue voice acting.



Emma Hall is a freshman at Mars Hill University. She is studying music education with a concentration in voice. In high school, she was part of productions including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Seussical*, *Charlie Brown Christmas*, and *He was Mine*. She is very excited to be joining the Mars Hill theatre community in this year's productions.



Blaine Hovis is a sophomore at Mars Hill University, double majoring in Musical Theatre and Elementary Education. She plans to graduate in 2025 and pursue theatre professionally before making her way to the classroom. She was most recently *Cinderella* in Mars Hill's production of *Cinderella* and her favorite role to date was Wednesday Addams in East Lincoln Onstage's production of *The Addams Family*.



Jaime Lopez is a senior Theatre Arts minor at Mars Hill University. Jaime worked in construction for a few years before deciding to go to school. He has served on the production crews for *Little Shop of Horrors*, *London Merchant* and *Cinderella* in lighting and sound.



Righteous Luster is a native of Greenville, SC. He is a senior at Mars Hill University, where he is pursuing his bachelor's degree in Theatre Arts. You may have seen him in Mars Hill University's productions of *The London Merchant*, *Letters to Joe*, and *A Miracle in Bedford Falls*. He has also been in Different Strokes' production of *Blood at the Root*. Righteous would like to thank his family and friends for their endless support!



Justice Rogers is an outstanding actor. He was born and raised in Greenville, South Carolina, where He found a passion for theatre. Justice is also a former SCTA (South Carolina Theatre Association) and PDA (Palmetto Dramatic Association) winning competitor, obtaining the ratings of excellence in the 2018-2019 year. He now attends Mars Hill University and is now a senior finishing his last semester. He is majoring in theatre performance and education.



Rachel Sealy attends Mars Hill University where she is a Nursing major and a Dance minor. She is a member of the Bailey Mountain Cloggers and Mars Hill Dance Team Captain. Rachel has been dancing since the age of three and is trained in all different styles of dance. Rachel was a Competition Dancer for Southern Sapphires Dance Company in Lumberton, North Carolina. She has won numerous overall titles and has represented Ultimate Starz Dance Competition as Junior, Teen, and 2019-2020 Dancer of the Year. She has been teaching dance classes since the age of 15. Rachel has performed on a Carnival Cruise ship and in overseas folk-dance festivals with the Bailey Mountain Cloggers. She cannot wait to see where she travels with dance in the future.



Regan Sellers is a junior Musical Theatre major at Mars Hill University. She is a native of Kings Mountain, North Carolina. You may have seen her last year as the Stepmother in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, as well as Belle in SART's production of *A Christmas Carol*. Upon graduation she intends to attend graduate school to receive her master's degree in Musical Theatre.



Christina Starck is a junior Theatre major at Mars Hill University and is an active member of the Bailey Mountain Cloggers.



Alexis Brooke Stephens, a native of Icard, NC, has appeared in multiple shows at Mars Hill University and SART. If you aren't seeing her on stage you can find her at the Box Office or behind the curtain as a techie. Having a strong choir background, she has been in multiple honor choruses and festivals. Alexis studies musical theatre at Mars Hill University, graduating in 2024. After graduation, Alexis plans to become a professional Musical Theatre actress.



Ethan Weber is an up-and-coming actor and hopes to make a career out of this. Ethan is from Greenville, South Carolina. You may have seen him in productions such as *Side by Side*, *Clybourne Park*, *The Wedding Singer*, or even *Cinderella*. Ethan is currently a senior at Mars Hill University and is majoring in Theater Arts. Ethan would like to thank his parents for the great amount of support they continue to give him. After graduating Ethan plans to pursue a career in film or stage acting.



Sarah Wheeler is a native of Oxford, North Carolina. She is a sophomore musical theatre major. You may have seen her in productions at Mars Hill such as *Little Shop of Horrors*. She has also been featured at McGregor Hall's regional theatre. She has also been in roles such as: Socrates with the we beseech thee feature in *Godspell*, The Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, Silly Girl in *Beauty and The Beast* & much more. She plans to graduate in the spring of 2024. Upon graduation, Sarah plans on pursuing stage performance.



Jared Wise hails from Asheville, NC. They are a first-year Musical Theatre major and are very excited for their time at Mars Hill. Some of their favorite past roles have been Lord Farquaad in *Shrek the Musical*, Dr. Chumley in *Harvey*, and Jason in *Medea*. Jared hopes you enjoy the show!



Seth Wynn is a junior Theater Arts major concentrating in Performance at Mars Hill University. Seth is a native of Graham, North Carolina. He has performed in many high school and community theater shows such as *Once On This Island* as Armand, in the *Wizard of Oz* as an ensemble member and was a Lost Boy in *Peter Pan*. Seth has worked as a running crew member for *Annie* and has helped create scenery for many miscellaneous shows. At Mars Hill University, Seth has worked backstage on *Little Shop of Horrors* and as an Ensemble member in *London Merchant* and *Cinderella*. Seth plans to graduate in 2024 and continue to work in staged performance, as well as branching out into voice acting.

THEATRE ARTS FACULTY & STAFF



Sue Fair

**Department of Theatre Arts
Chair & Associate Professor**

Sue Fair is the Theatre Arts Department Chair at Mars Hill University, is on the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre Board of Directors. She was born in Asheville, NC, and was a graduate of West Henderson High School, Florida A & M University and Florida State University, from where she holds a graduate degree in Theatre Education. She also served her country in the Army Reserves for eight years as an Intelligence Officer. Sue has worked professionally at Gardner-Webb University as the Theatre Arts Interim Department Chair, Instructor, Designer and Managing Director, from where she proudly received the faculty of the year award in 2015. Sue has also worked at SART, Flat Rock Playhouse, Florida State University, Tallahassee Community College, Young Actor's Theatre and South Georgia Performing Arts. She has written screenplays for two Nickelodeon series and been in background in several popular films and series. Sue has been involved in theatre and film for 35 years with over 70 performances under her belt, and has been teaching professionally for over 22 years. Her true love is theatre education and inspiring people of all ages with the wonders of live theatre.



Robert Blackwell

**Department of Theatre Arts
Musical Theatre Instructor**

Rob Blackwell received his Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Ohio State University. He is currently both the pianist for Cantaria and the Music Director of the Asheville Community Theater. Rob has worked as a musical director/pianist on more than 100 theater productions in New York, Europe and much of the United States, including two years in Europe with the London company of Grease and the revival of Do I Hear a Waltz?, supervised by [Stephen Sondheim \(Masterworks Broadway\)](#) and Arthur Laurents. He has

also served as a vocal coach in both Philadelphia and New York, prior to joining the staff at New Hope.



Chelsey Gaddy

Department of Theatre Arts

Adjunct Instructor & Musical Theatre Director

Chelsey Lee Gaddy is a native of Asheville, NC and a graduate of Mars Hill University. She moved back to Asheville 6 years ago after a diverse career in Pigeon Forge, TN, where she did everything from playing Lucille Ball to singing backup for Dolly Parton. Her MFA in Acting from Florida Atlantic University has provided a variety of experience in both teaching and performance, which led her back to her Alma Mater as the director of the MHU Musical Theatre Program. Chelsey teaches a variety of classes and her specialty is preparing students for professional experiences after graduation. She is currently the Senior Artistic Director for Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, a nonprofit professional theater company housed on the campus of Mars Hill University. Voted “Best of WNC” for multiple years under her management, SART provides relevant professional theatrical experience for MHU students before they graduate. In her spare time, she is actively involved in connective networking throughout western North Carolina to promote inclusion in education and theatre, Autism acceptance, and support for survivors of Domestic Violence. Chelsey’s passion is trauma-conscious personal growth and finding effective ways for using theatre as a vehicle for societal change. Her son, Cyrus James Gaddy Mirheli, keeps her busy with his Kindergarten adventures and a love of taking risks. He is non-speaking, but just as expressive as his Theatre friends. She is blessed to have the opportunity to be both a mother and an artist, bringing her tenacity and dedication to the theatrical home that shaped the beginning of her career.



Amanda Hoyte

Department of Theatre Arts

Adjunct Instructor & Dance Program Director

Amanda Hoyte is a proud graduate of both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B.S. in Psychology, and the University of South Florida with a M.S. in Medical (Health) Sciences, with over 25 years of formal dance training in styles including ballet, tap, and jazz dance, and theatrical and concert stage performance experience that spans 20 years. Amanda has devoted most of her professional dance career to educating individuals of all ages in the art and joy of music through movement and to building a diverse dance community in Western North Carolina. Amanda joined the Theatre Arts Department faculty at Mars Hill University as the Dance Program Director in 2020. In addition to her instruction and program direction at the university level, Amanda teaches at the primary and secondary levels; she is a resident instructor and jazz and tap choreographer for the competitive dance team at Art of Dance Studio in Flat Rock, NC. Amanda also teaches tap and jazz master classes and choreographs professional productions (recent credits: *BLVCK BRILLIANCE: A Celebration of Melanin* (2021) and *Little Shop of Horrors* (2021)). Throughout her career, she has traveled and performed with professional dance companies on stage in cities across America and developed a love for performing. She continues her performance career regionally, with most recent appearances in music videos for artists including The Get Right Band, Alfred Nomad, and Eleanor Underhill, and on theatrical stages, including the 2021 production of *BLVCK BRILLIANCE: A Celebration of Melanin* and SART's 2022 production of *The Wedding Singer*. She is also very active as a jazz-tap dancer/musician in Asheville's live music scene and is a leader in the NC Chapter of the Southern Open Rhythm Collective. As Dance Program Director at MHU, Amanda is working to build a holistic dance program that creates informed and experienced practitioners/performers. Her efforts in this regard have led her to several scholarly and creative pursuits examining the relationship between dance, music, and American culture.



Anne Knight

Department of Theatre Arts

Costume Shop Manager & Costume Designer

A native of Asheville, Anne graduated from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Trained in Costume Construction, she has worked in various Costume Shops, theme parks and Costume rental stores. Anne opened her own Costume creation business, operating it for 20 years. The business specialized in costumes for Ballet and Irish Step Dance Companies. She also served Civil War Reenactors, Professional Clown Performers and Sci-Fi Enthusiasts. Anne also did custom sewing for the physically challenged. Anne maintains the Theatre Arts Department's costume collection and instructs students in sewing and wardrobe maintenance. She is also the Costume Shop Manager for the Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre.



Danielle Buice Plimpton

Director of the Bailey Mountain Cloggers & MHU Spirit Teams

Danielle Plimpton is in her 16th year as Director and Choreographer for Bailey

Mountain Cloggers. She is a graduate of Mars Hill University and a former member of the Bailey Mountain Cloggers. She has performed in Ireland, Spain, Costa Rica, Greece, England, France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Columbia, the Netherlands, and Portugal. She also appeared in Uncle Earl's music video Streak o' Lean, Streak o' Fat. She is trained in many styles of dance including Ballet, Jazz, Clogging, Gum Boot, Irish, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, and Tap. She has directed the team for 17 of their National Titles. Danielle also serves as Director of Mars Hill University's Spirit Teams.

Bailey Mountain is her second home and will always be her extended family.



Richard Riccardi
Department of Theatre Arts
Musical Theatre Accompanist

Richard Riccardi is a native New Yorker who started pursuing his piano studies at the age of four. After an embarrassing moment (for his teacher and parents) of hiding under the piano at his first public recital, he recovered his decorum, and went on to study at Mannes College of Music in the preparatory department, and then to Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, earning his Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance. As part of his Oberlin studies, he spent a year studying piano at the Akademie Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, and followed his bachelor's degree earning a Master of Musical Arts degree at Yale University School of Music. After graduate school, he spent many years teaching music at all levels in the public schools, mostly in California, and retired in 2008 two years after being one of the recipients of the Mister Holland's Opus award for excellence in teaching. Retirement, in truth, is a non-existent word in Richard's vocabulary, and he continued to teach for the next eight years at Sonoma State University before relocating to North Carolina. He has been an active music director, and in a year in which teaching was interrupted by budget cuts, Richard was on tour with the third national company of Annie, as assistant conductor. Richard and his wife Sandy continue to music direct shows, perform their original comedy cabaret, and are both adjunct professors at Brevard College.



Richard Seagle
Department of Theatre Arts
Technical Director, Designer & Associate Professor

He holds a B.A. in Theatre from Catawba College and a M.F.A. degree in Design and Technical Theatre from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. He has supervised all technical aspects of countless theatrical productions and special events in many local venues including the Biltmore Estate Outdoor Festivals and Asheville Community Theatre. Richard serves as Designer and Technical Director for most departmental shows. Richard has created designs for scenery and

lighting for Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre and has served as Production Manager for past SART seasons. Richard's freelance design work includes set designs for mountain area groups such as Jericho Players, Parkway Playhouse, and Highland Repertory Theatre. Richard has received numerous awards which acknowledge his design work and academic work. Graduate set designs for *Of Mice and Men* and *The Three Sisters* were adjudicated by Ming Cho Lee in conjunction with the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (Region III). Designs for *The Three Sisters* received regional acknowledgement for best set design in a competition sponsored by the university. Richard was also honored by Catawba College Theatre Arts Department as an inducted member of their Blue Masque Hall of Fame for his outstanding contributions to the theatre profession and his meritorious life in theatre.



Chuck Taft
Department of Theatre Arts
Musical Theatre Instructor

Chuck Taft is an educator, performer, conductor, and music director based in Western North Carolina. Chuck attended Mars Hill University for two years before graduating from Western Carolina University (Bachelor of Music - Vocal Performance) and holds a Master of Music from Lee University. He has over 20 years' experience as Music Director for over 60 musicals performed all over North Carolina. He currently serves as Director of University Chorale, Applied Voice Instructor, and Music Director and Conductor for the Reuter Center Singers at UNC Asheville, as Applied Voice Instructor – Theatre Arts at Mars Hill University, as Director of the Givens Estates Choir, and as Music Director at First Congregational UCC - Asheville.

Mr. Taft has served as Music Director and Conductor for Haywood Arts Regional Theatre, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre, Asheville Community Theatre, and as Music Director for BioFlyer Productions and Hendersonville Theatre. He has served as Interim Conductor of the Blue Ridge Orchestra, Guest Conductor of the

Asheville Choral Society, Conductor of the Asheville Chamber Players, and as Music Director, Chorus Master and Conductor for various productions of the Asheville Lyric Opera and has also performed and/or conducted at many area theaters, including Highland Repertory Theater, Mars Hill College, Parkway Playhouse, UNC Asheville, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater, MAHEC, Asheville Community Theater, BioFlyer Productions, Asheville Arts Center and Western Carolina University.

Chuck brings energy and joy to his work in various settings, facilitating personal and musical growth with students and colleagues, while deftly navigating conflict to achieve desired outcomes. He strives to practice the principle of People over Process in a positive, possibility-filled environment.



Andrew Zebroski
Department of Theatre Arts
Assistant Technical Director & Lighting Designer

Andrew C. Zebroski is the Assistant Technical Director for the MHU Theatre Arts Program.

Originally from Gastonia, NC, and raised in PA, Andrew has worked as a Technical Director, Lighting Designer, Sound Designer and Electrician in NY, PA, NC, and touring. He has also been a part of Southern Appalachian Repertory Theatre's design and technical staff the past few summers. Andrew was the recipient of two 2019 Metrolina Theatre Association Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design of a Musical for *Mama Mia* and Outstanding Lighting Design for *Curious Incident of the Night-Time*. Most recent credits include, *Lifespan of a Fact* at Players Circle Performing Arts Center in Fort Meyers, FL and *Sisters of Swing* with SART.

MARS HILL UNIVERSITY 1856



THEATRE ARTS PROGRAMS

- *Master of Arts in Teaching for Theatre*
- *Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts*
- *Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre*
- *Minor in Musical Theatre*
- *Minor in Dance*



[WWW.MHU.EDU/THEATRE](http://www.mhu.edu/theatre)

Mars Hill University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's and master's degrees. The university is an equal opportunity provider and employer.