

Working Group Theatre *Out of Bounds*

Thursday-Sunday, May 1-4, 2014

Riverside Theatre

Hancher

University of Iowa



HANCHER

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF IOWA

World premiere and Hancher commission

OUT OF BOUNDS

written by **Jennifer Fawcett**

with **Working Group Theatre**

directed by **Sean Christopher Lewis**

CAST

in order of appearance

Amy	Emily Hinkler
Allison	Kristy Hartsgrove-Mooers
Mike	Matthew James
Karl	Tim Budd
TJ	Barrington Vaxter
Christine	Jennifer Fawcett

COMPANY

Director/Scenic Design/Sound Design	Sean Christopher Lewis
Playwright/Video Design	Jennifer Fawcett
Lighting Design	Courtney Schmitz
Scenic Illustrator/Comic Design	Benjamin Mackey
Shadow Puppetry	Buffy Quintero
Shadow Puppetry	Jen Shook
Composer/Choir Director	Katie Roche
Stage Manager	Ashley Pettit
Movement Consultant	Jessica Anthony
Assistant Stage Manager	Colin Bieker

CHOIR

Tulsidas Balam Lopez Alarcon, Massimo Biggers, Serena Collins,
Kalvin Goodlaxson, Chandler Hamm, Iver Hovet, Jasmine Murphy,
Spencer Rideout, Julie Rideout, James Zierke, Susana Zierke, Shawn Zierke

Working Group Theatre would like to say a special thanks to the following people for sharing their stories and research for this show:

Steve & Theresa Mikelson; Mike, Mary Pat & Gracie Schulte; Grace Yarrow; Shawn, Susana, James & Eric Zierke; Matt Degner; Justin Torner; Tonya McDonough; Jane Fry; LaTasha Massey; Officer Jorey Bailey; Karen Nichols; Katie Roche; Anna Basile; Sue Berger; Ryan Roemmerman; Corinne Peek-Asa, Ph.D, M.P.H.; Marizen Ramirez, Ph.D, M.P.H.; and Dr. Briana Woods-Jaeger, Ph.D.

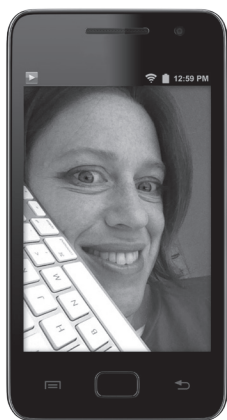
And thanks to:

Riverside Theatre, Principal Jerry Arganbright and West High School, Emma Christison, Grace Huber, Samantha Plummer, Ben Nelson, Janet Schlapkohl and Combined Efforts Theatre, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, and the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

TIM BUDD (Karl)

Tim's most recent performance for Working Group Theatre was in last spring's *The Broken Chord*. More recent work includes acting in *Walking the Wire: Merge*, *Good People*, and *Birth Witches* and directing the one-woman show *Coming of Age in Chore Boots*, all at Riverside Theatre. He will be appearing this summer for Riverside Theatre in the Park as Iago in *Othello*. Tim is an artistic associate for both Working Group and Riverside Theatre, and completed his studies for an MFA in acting at the University of Iowa. When not performing, he works full time at Prairie Lights Bookstore.



JENNIFER FAWCETT (Playwright/Christine)

Jennifer is the associate artistic director of Working Group Theatre for which she has written *The Broken Chord* (Hancher commission), *Out of Bounds* (youth version) (Hancher commission), *The Toymaker's War*, *Atlas of Mud*, *Telling: Iowa City* (co-written with Jonathan Wei), and *Odysseus, Iowa* (co-written with Sean Lewis). Her play *Birth Witches* premiered at Riverside Theatre and was nominated for the ATCA/Steinberg New Play Award. She was the NNPN Emerging-Playwright-In-Residence at Curious Theatre Company (Denver) and is the winner of the National Science Playwriting Award from the Kennedy Center. A graduate of the University

of Iowa MFA Playwrights Workshop, Jennifer has had plays produced at the Tennessee Women's Theatre Project (Nashville), The Drilling Company (New York), Riverside Theatre (Iowa City), Available Light Theatre (Columbus), the Adirondack Theatre Festival (Glens Falls, N.Y.), Alcyone Festival (Chicago), Theatre Masters (Aspen/West Palm Beach), the Hatchery Festival (Washington, DC), and in festivals across Canada. Up next, she will be adapting Tolstoy's *Kreutzer Sonata* premiering at Music IC in June.

MATTHEW JAMES (Mike)

Matthew has been fortunate to work for theatre companies throughout the Corridor. His previous Working Group Theatre credits include *Rust*. Favorite productions include *Of Mice and Men* (Iowa City Community Theatre), *Bent* (Dreamwell), *Lady M* (University of Iowa), and *Horatio's Purgatory* (Theatre Cedar Rapids). Matt is a founding member of Fourth Room Theatre, playing roles in *Cymbeline*, *Closer*, and their upcoming production *Much Ado About Nothing*. Love to KRL, SG, and MJK for steadfast belief.





KRISTY HARTSGROVE-MOOERS (Allison)

Kristy is an artistic associate of Working Group Theatre, where she has appeared in *The Broken Chord*, *Mayberry*, *Rust*, *Atlas of Mud*, and in the road company of *Denali*, which won the Cincinnati Acclaim Award for Best Ensemble. She was most recently seen onstage as Margie in *Good People* at Riverside Theatre. She has appeared regionally with the Iowa Summer Repertory, Riverside Theatre, the Old Creamery Theatre, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, and the Bohemian Theatre Ensemble. She teaches at Coe College and holds an MFA from Illinois State University. Love to MHM.

EMILY HINKLER (Amy)

Emily is a senior theatre arts major at the University of Iowa. She is so glad to have this second opportunity to work with Working Group Theatre. Her past credits include *Quiet Witches*, *Out of Bounds* (youth version), *My Sister*, *Bad Seed*, *half-sick of shadows*, *A Dream Play*, *Lady M*, *Ondine*, *Dr. Faustus*, *Lysistrata*, and Martha Clarke's *In the Night*. She thanks Jennifer, Sean, Hancher, and the cast for their dedication to changing our community's future. She hopes this play will open the hearts and minds of those watching and that they too will take a stand against bullying.



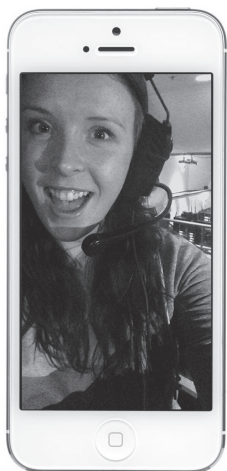
SEAN CHRISTOPHER LEWIS (Director/Designer)

Sean is the artistic director of Working Group Theatre. With the company, he has written, conceived, directed, acted, or designed for each of their projects including *Mayberry* (Hancher,

Bucksbaum Performing Arts Center, Iowa Arts Council), *The Broken Chord* (Hancher), *Out of Bounds* (youth version) (Hancher, upcoming at the Lied Center), *Denali* (Know Theatre of Cincinnati, Actors Theatre of Grand Rapids, Acorn Theatre, Acclaim Award for Best Direction), *The Toymaker's War*, *Atlas of Mud*, *Rust*, and *Drinks by the Pool*. His work has taken him to Kigali, Rwanda, where he directed *We Stood Up* for the Centre X Centre International Theatre Festival and Barcelona, Spain, where he directed *The Riot Ballet* at the Institut del Teatre. As a solo performer he has toured his shows *Killadelphia* (American Theatre Company, Woolly Mammoth Theatre, Southern Rep, upcoming at Next Theatre, etc.), *Just Kids* (Ko Festival of Performance, Sandglass Theatre, etc.) and *Dogs of Rwanda* (Legion Arts, upcoming at the Redfern Arts Center) throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe. His work has been honored with the Kennedy Center's Rosa Parks Award, the Smith Prize, the Barrymore Award, Central Ohio Critic Circle Award, the William Inge Fellowship, and the Rick Graf Award from the Iowa Human Rights Commission.

BENJAMIN MACKEY
(Scenic Illustrator/Comic Design)

Benjamin received his BFA in painting from the University of Iowa. He currently lives in Iowa City where he pursues freelance illustration and art commissions for clients across the United States. Benjamin's current body of work draws imagery from the Italian Renaissance and Catholic mythology, reworking it in light of contemporary sensibilities.



ASHLEY PETTIT (Stage Manager)

Ashley is a senior at the University of Iowa studying theatre with a focus in stage management and directing. This is her first show with Working Group Theatre. Recent theatrical credits include: *Psychos Never Dream* (Stage Manager, UI Undergrad Writing Program), *Monopoly* (Director, UI), *Spamalot* (Stage Manager, City Circle Acting Co.), and *She Stoops to Conquer* (Assistant Stage Manager, UI). After graduation in May, Ashley will be going to Loch Sheldrake, N.Y., to stage manage at Stagedoor Manor Performing Arts Center.

BUFFY QUINTERO (Shadow Puppetry)

Buffy is an elementary art educator in the Iowa City Community School District. She holds a master's degree from the University of Iowa and has experience teaching at the high school and college levels. Buffy is a visual artist, art educator, and puppeteer. She has performed puppetry locally at libraries, schools, as part of art exhibitions, and at community events. She spent last summer with a touring arts team funded by the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust and Eulenspiegel Puppets, conducting puppet-making workshops across the state.

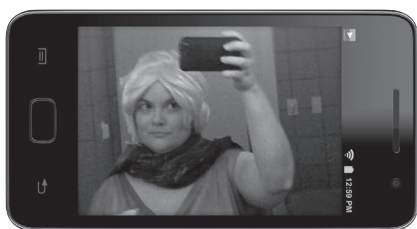
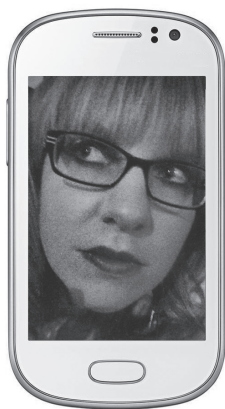


KATIE ROCHE (Composer/Choir Director)

Katie is a multi-instrumentalist and songwriter currently performing with the all-female folk ensemble Awful Purdies, as well as a new early jazz project called Clark's Hot Five that will be featured at the Iowa City Jazz Festival this summer. For two decades Katie has jumped genres collaborating with Gordan Gano of the Violent Femmes and French jazz pianist Laurent Coq, among others. Recently Katie has been working with the children of The Family Folk Machine, Iowa City's own intergenerational folk choir, to write a song enticing us all to clean up the Iowa River.

COURTNEY SCHMITZ (Lighting Design)

Courtney is a freelance designer based in Minneapolis who received her MFA in lighting design from the University of Iowa in 2009. In addition to Working Group Theatre, she has designed professionally for 20% Theatre, Crash.Dance Productions, Yellow Tree Theatre, Six Elements Theatre, Freshwater Theatre, Theatre in the Round, Lyric Arts Company of Anoka, Dangerous Productions, Festival Theatre, Black Dirt Theatre, Savage Umbrella, Nimbus Theatre, Rosetown Playhouse, Inver Hills Community College, Riverside Theatre, the University of Iowa Department of Dance, Cornell College, Iowa Summer Rep, Florida Players, and the University of Florida Opera Department. This is her third WGT/Hancher collaboration, having designed the lights for both *Mayberry* and *The Broken Chord*.



JEN SHOOK (Shadow Puppetry)

Jen is a shamelessly interdisciplinary maker and connector, dramaturg and director, and founder of Chicago's Caffeine Theatre (2002-2012). Iowa City credits include parading in paper as the City of Lit in the IC Carnival, organizing Life After: Activist Memorials

and Digital Collaboration, and puppeting (with Buffy Quintero) in *Persephone's Shadow* and at Public Space 1's upcoming *SEMBLANCES*. A graduate student in English, books arts and book history, she's taught at UI, DePaul University, and Columbia College, and is co-director of Imagining America's PAGE network of publicly engaged students. Other theatre credits range from the San Francisco Mime Troupe to the Goodman, from TimeLine and the Hypocrites to the Plagiarists' salons. She's happy to work for the first time with Working Group Theatre.

BARRINGTON VAXTER (TJ)

This is Barrington's third show with Working Group Theatre. He first appeared in *Mayberry*, and he played Mr. F in the touring youth version of *Out of Bounds*. "Do what you love; for Mom." #shakes



ABOUT WORKING GROUP THEATRE

Working Group Theatre's original plays, events, and educational programs are created in collaboration with artists and community partners to engage a diverse audience and present the untold stories in the world around us. We seek to involve our audience in the stories we tell as commentators and collaborators and reach out to new audiences by eliminating the social and economic barriers to theatre attendance. www.workinggrouptheatre.org



Sones de México

Residency Reaches Out to Iowa City, West Liberty

Sones de México, Chicago's premier folk music ensemble specializing in Mexican *son*, spent a week in a Hancher residency that included stops at elementary schools in Iowa City and West Liberty as well as public performances in both communities. The ensemble's performances for children are interactive and include music demonstrations from several regions of Mexico, storytelling in both English and Spanish, and dancing. The band also spent time in University of Iowa classes. The band celebrated its 20th anniversary while in Iowa. The residency and performances were supported by the Iowa Arts Council.



Photos: Whitney Marcella Wright

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Photo by Whitney Marcella Wright

Ragamala Dance share cultural mission across the UI campus

By Erin Donohue, Hancher's Education Programming Director

Hancher was pleased to have Ragamala Dance in residence for a week in March 2014. During their time in Iowa City, the members of Ragamala visited classes as varied as Cultural Anthropology, Dance History, Visual Cultures and Performance in the Americas, Religions in a Global Context, Music in India Today, and New Ventures in the Arts. While class discussions varied based on the themes of the class, it was clear that the company has a strong artistic mission: to communicate that Bharatanatyam is a living cultural form and is also a relevant, powerful artistic expression in contemporary society.

Aparna Ramaswamy, co-artistic director of the company, spoke in great detail about the history of Bharatanatyam in India during visits to UI classes. She talked about how the South Indian dance form has been passed on as an oral tradition through many generations. She discussed the different classical dance forms in India (6-8 depending on the scholar) and how dance was strictly performed by women in temples as part of rituals and ceremonies. These women were a medium between the gods and the people; dance traditions were passed down in families.

Now, Bharatanatyam is typically performed in concert halls with a live musical ensemble. Dancers of all backgrounds are learning the form as its popularity grows in India and in the diaspora. Two of Ragamala's dancers are not Indian, and they've committed their lives to a cultural form that is not their native heritage. Both dancers spoke eloquently about the dance form and how they love working for a company that has a strong artistic vision for the future of Bharatanatyam.

Ragamala is dedicated to adhering to the technique of Bharatanatyam, perfecting movements and molding dancers who honor the traditions of the form. At the same time, they want to show it is a contemporary dance form with choreographers, musical choices, and thematic freedom, with many artistic choices similar to a modern or ballet company. They want to bring their work to a new audience in the United States, making it a vibrant part of the dance scene today.

Ragamala's residency centered on two performances of *Sacred Earth* at Space Place Theater, an evening-length piece that unifies dance with the ephemeral visual arts of kolam floor design and Warli wall painting, live Indian classical music, projections, and Tamil Sangam literature.

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