SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD
WRITTEN AND COMPOSED BY JASON ROBERT BROWN
Presented with permission of Music Theatre International
McKenna Theatre
www.newpaltz.edu/theatre
On behalf of the students and faculty of the department, I want to welcome you to Songs for a New World written and composed by Jason Robert Brown, directed by Catherine Doherty, musical direction by Katya Stanislavskaya, stage managed by Kiara Vedovino, and produced with the support and participation of countless students and faculty working in every area of performance, production, and management you can imagine. It is wonderful to see your faces...and even more wonderful to see those of our cast!

This year provides an opportunity to welcome you back to the theatre and I are thrilled that you have joined us in Mckenna Theatre which stands on the unceded land of the Munsee, Esopus and Lenape peoples. There are wonderful sources and I hope you take time to learn about our region’s indigenous people. It is important to acknowledge and understand our history.

Producing theatre is complex, and even more so lately. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have followed the Campus COVID guidelines and practices. We have been able to rehearse, and now perform, this text by as we continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students, faculty, local and campus communities. We appreciate your patience and support as we have navigated the last two years.

The Department of Theatre Arts at SUNY New Paltz provides an educational space for students to explore, discover, and nurture their scholarly/artistic and personal voices—it serves as an incubator for the American Theatre. And like the profession should, wrestles with the everchanging context of the world. Engaging with and listening to the concerns and experiences of students, the Department of Theatre Arts has made significant changes to the curriculum, and department—this evolution is reflected in structural changes and the commitment to continued conversation and action. Both our curriculum and our production season provide educational opportunities for students and must provide space for stories that provoke timely conversations and resonate with our community. The titles we produce prioritize the inclusion of underrepresented voices and work from traditionally marginalized populations. The season is full of exciting titles, and I hope that you will join us for each of the productions.

Lastly, we hope to make our work accessible to our community. In that spirit, we have cut this season’s ticket price in half compared to the 2018-2019 academic year; however, once again, I feel compelled to say that the cost of these productions is not half of what was. If you find yourself in a position to support our work, please consider a donation to the Department or become a Friend of the Theatre.

And of course, thank you to everyone that has and continues to support the work of our students, and through them shape the return and the future of the American Theatre.

Enjoy the performance, and I look forward to seeing you again later in the season.

Ken Goldstein
he/him/his
Chair/Professor of Design
Department of Theatre Arts
From Paige Rosko, dramaturg:

This production includes sensitive material including death, imprisonment, discrimination, gambling addiction, and heavy religious language.

“It’s about one moment. It’s about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back.” says writer and composer Jason Robert Brown about his 1995 song cycle Songs For A New World. This production, helmed by Catherine Doherty, wants to celebrate the new world that we, as a society, are moving into. The celebratory aspects of the production makes us aware of the fact that the new world is not always something bad. This show is a celebration of survival and a promise to remember our strength in the new world, whatever that means to each of us individually. Our new world could mean the post-COVID world, the post-graduation world, or just whatever else is awaiting us in the next few weeks, months, or even years.

The concept of a song cycle is one that all of the songs in the musical have little in common except for their overarching themes. It is important to note that the actors in this production are not playing the same character in every song. For example, one actor might be playing a gambling addict during one song and then a prisoner during the next. The set, lighting, and sound designers have all worked together to give you a sense of the environment for each song. Along with the designers’ work, almost all of the songs do not have a definitive time or place; for most of them, the directing team chose when and where they think the song would fit best.

In the show, we constantly change locations and time periods— we visit the modern day, 1775, 1492, and multiple more times in between. Don’t fret about the time jumps, there is nothing in particular you need to know about these eras to understand their stories and characters. Jason Robert Brown’s lyrics allow audience members to understand the situation of the song without knowing anything else about the time period or location. Brown constantly changes the location of the musical to show that no matter who we are or where we are from, we all have the same inner struggles. A wife who feels abandoned by her husband and wants to get his attention also has to go through the same decision-making process as two people trying to decide if their relationship deserves a second chance.

This is the first fully-staged musical at SUNY New Paltz since the 2018 production of Into the Woods, also directed by Catherine Doherty. Everyone involved is extremely grateful that we once again have the opportunity to create a musical for a live audience. We all recognize what it took to get to this point and no one is going to take it for granted. It is no coincidence that the first musical we are doing in years is about trying to figure out what to do when being faced with a new world. For many of our cast and crew members, a post-graduation world awaits in a couple of months. While all of us are trying to come to terms with what our world is now, they are also leaving behind what they’ve known for the last four years on top of that.

Personally, as the dramaturg for this production, I’ve had a very special opportunity to get to see this piece grow. It truly is incredible what the theatrical innovators at this school can do and I, along with many other members of this department, have been lucky to have the opportunity to witness them work. It is my hope that everyone who gets to watch this show is able to see how much love went into the production, from every corner of the process. From the dramaturg to the actors, we all want to find our place in this new world, no matter how much it might scare us, and we all hope that this show allows you a little bit of peace about the future.
Director..................................................................................Catherine Doherty
Music Director........................................................................Katya Stanislavskaya

Production Stage Manager.................................Kiara Vedovino
Production Manager.................................................................Shannon Dodson

Set Designer............................................................Ken Goldstein
Costume Designer............................................................Cassie Smith
Lighting Designer............................................................Martin Benesh
Sound Designer...............................................................Sunny Kil
Dramaturg.................................................................Paige Rosko

Cast:

Lucas Anderson          Lindsay Ork
Madison Gattullo        Caitlyn Schmidt
Jillian Landsman        Zack Tashoff
Gina Lardi             Chris Tomer
Josh Lococco           Irving Zuniga

Onstage Swings: Ashley Hoffmann, Sumire Muratsu
Understudies: Simon Woods, Lorelei Velez

Conductor/ Keyboard 1...............................................Katya Stanislavskaya
Keyboard 2........................................................................Nathan Perry
Bass.................................................................Sean Tarleton
Drums...............................................................Daniel Gonko

Movement Coach.................................Connie Rotunda
Assistant Director.................................Caitlin Malczon
Assistant Music Director...............................Katie Gudzik
Dance Captain................................................Lindsay Ork
Rehearsal Accompanist.................................................................Nathan Perry
Assistant Dramaturg........................................................................Sky Rolnick
Assistant Set Designer.................................................................Natasha D’Amico
Assistant Production Manager..................................................Joni Honeywell

Technical Director........................................................................Sylviane Sherwin
Assistant Technical Director............................................................Mack Baird
Assistant Stage Manager...............................................................Max Rosenfeld, Gabriel Dranow
Costume Design Assistant.........................................................Kiana Duggan-Haas, Marianna Oropallo

Sound Supervisor..........................................................................James Kogan
Assistant Sound Designers.........................................................Emerson Wachnik
A1..................................................Keirsten Lamora
A1 Sub.............................................................................Leann Epstein
A2....................................................................................Emerson Wachnik
Production Audio........................................................................Andrew Paolillo
Load-In Crew..............................................................................Ashlie Morrison, Joni Honeywell
Production Electrician..................................................................Abby Rose
Lighting Board Operator..............................................................Mason Crowley
Electricians................................................................................Mack Baird, Maya Battistella,
Khalil Coates, Jessica McGowen, Marianna Oropallo
Spot Light Operators.................................................................Sky Rolnick, Colin Gallagher
Make-up and Hair.......................................................................Olivia Riddle, Skylar Caruso
Wardrobe Supervisor...................................................................Marianna Oropallo
Head Carpenter........................................................................Shannon Dodson
Lean Carpenter........................................................................Katherine de Onis
Carpenters..............................................................................Nathan Benitez, Mason Crowley
Carpentry Crew.................................................................Birana Acosta, Sam Duer, Colin Gallagher, Kiera Lynch
Andrew Paolillo, Khiara Richards, Alex Vaynerchuk
Rebecca Warkenthen, Barbara Watterson
UP NEXT:

Pages from a Love Manifesto
Devised by Nico Torrez
April 29, 30 at 8:00 and May 1 at 2:00
2021-2022 Production Season:
For more information https://www.newpaltz.edu/fpa/theatre/productions/mainstage/

Play On Shakespeare’s **Macbeth**
By William Shakespeare Translated by Migdalia Cruz
September 11th at 8:00 and September 12th at 2:00

**The Wolves**
By Sarah DeLappe
Presented with permission of Concord Theatricals
September 30, September 1, 2, 14, 15, 16 at 8:00 and September 3 and 17 at 2:00.

**La fuerza de Antígona**
By Tlaloc Rivas
November 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 at 8:00 and November 14, 21 at 2:00

**Stop Kiss**
By Diana Son
Presented with permission from Dramatists Play Service, Inc.
December 3, 4 at 8 and December 5 at 2:00

**Unnatural Acts**
Harvard’s Secret Court of 1920
Conceived by Tony Speciale
Collaboratively written by Members of Plastic Theatre
February 24, 25, 26 and March 3, 4, 5 at 8:00 and February 27 and March 6 at 2:00

**Songs for a New World**
Written and Composed by Jason Robert Brown
Presented with permission of Music Theatre International
March 31, April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 at 8:00 and April 3 and 10 at 2

**Pages from a Love Manifesto**
Devised by Nico Torrez
April 29, 30 at 8:00 and May 1 at 2:00