

***VSU Theatre & Dance
presents the 2025-2026 season:***

EMBER'S CALL

**A Performance for Young Audiences
Featuring an Original Story and Dance**

Written, directed and choreographed by Melissa Pihos

**September 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 2 PM
SAWYER**



**VALDOSTA STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Patron List 2024-2025

The patrons below have contributed to the Golden Circle Scholarship & Support Fund providing support to our production program but most importantly to the Theatre and Dance scholarships that help us attract outstanding students to our programs. The names below reflect those who have contributed through September 11, 2025.

Platinum

- Dr. Oscar & Lisa Agüero
- Drs. Richard & Cheryl Carvajal
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- The Valdosta School of Ballet
- Maggie & Wesley Vallotton
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- Jacque & Randy Wheeler
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- Blake & Barbara Pearce

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- John & Phyllis Hiers
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VSU Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff:

- Blair Andersen
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- Sarah Wildes Arnett
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- Madison Grant
- H. Duke Guthrie
- Danielle Kimble
- Chalise Ludlow
- Joe Mason
- Ethan Parker
- Melissa Pihos
- Dr. Melissa Rynn Porterfield
- Kathy Raess-Young
- Hank Rion
- Joshua Williams

Letter from the President



Dear Friends,

Welcome to Valdosta State University Theatre and Dance's 2025-2026 Season: Awakenings.

Whether you are a long-standing supporter of our productions or a first-time guest, we are delighted to have you join us for this incredible lineup of shows, each centered around a theme that is as ancient as storytelling itself, yet endlessly relevant. Whether it comes in the form of a personal revelation, a societal shift, or a quiet moment of clarity, an awakening is the turning point that shapes who we are and how we live.

VSU Theatre and Dance is committed to fostering excellence within its theatre performance, theatre production, theatre management, musical theatre, and dance programs while also contributing to the lifelong learning and cultural development of the citizens of South Georgia, North Florida, and beyond.

VSU Theatre and Dance attracts highly talented students from around the world and, over the course of four years, helps them develop critical thinking, problem-solving, planning, and organizational skills; perseverance; self-discipline; patience; physical stamina; creative abilities; a broad understanding of literature, history, and other arts, which helps them to interpret ideas and feelings; and an understanding of music, costuming, and staging.

Our faculty train more than performers. They cultivate thinkers, leaders, storytellers, and citizens. They awaken students to who they are, who they might become, and how they might move through the world with intention and artistry.

Many of our VSU Theatre and Dance graduates go on to pursue careers as writers, dancers, actors, directors, managers, and more in the film and television industry, as well as on Broadway, Off-Broadway, in regional tours, at theme parks, and more across the United States and beyond.

Before we "raise the curtain" on what promises to be a life-changing moment of storytelling, I want to say thank you to the many individuals, families, community leaders, and business owners who generously support, protect, and nurture VSU's tradition of creative excellence. Your presence here today ensures that live theatre will continue to thrive on our campus and in our community for generations to come.

Enjoy the show!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Carvajal". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Richard A. Carvajal, Ph.D.
President



EMBER'S CALL

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CAST

Agnar the Elder	Jeronimo Rico
Gunnar the Raven	Brynna Norris
Jon the Icelandic Horse	Isabella Patillo
Inga the Artic Fox	Kennedi Powers
Aki the Puffin	Kelcy Ricketson
Magnus the Gyrfalcon	Alexis Tucker
Ember (Voice)	Melissa Pihos

Scenic Designer
Hannah Seyler

Costume Designer
Dr Anna Rodgers

Sound Designers
Melissa Pihos
Joshua Williams

Voice-Over Recording
Joshua Williams

Stage Manager
Melissa Pihos

Technical Director
Madison Grant

Choreographer
Melissa Pihos

Director
Melissa Pihos

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scene Shop Assistants	Juanita Justo Allison Rooker Grace Schaefer Hannah Seyler
Scene Shop Personnel	THEA 2750 THEA 3720A
Costume Shop Supervisor	Kathy Raess Young
Costume Shop Assistants	Ally Atkinson Sydne Hirshman Victoria Kanes Olivia Martin Dr Anna Rodgers Dallas Serna-Geddings
Costume Shop Personnel	THEA 2730B THEA 3720C
Wardrobe Crew	Henry Gunter Lucia Quesada
Box Office Manager	Michaela Anderson
Box Office Treasurers	Ryan Blaumueller Savanna Davis Toriah Drake Carter Exum Shelby Howell Saniah Lewis Nick Singleton
House Managers	Toriah Drake
Social Media Student Coordinator	Tiah Carthers

MUSIC

Skald, Olafur Poroarson, Magnus por Sigmundsson, Edda Heldrun Backman, Icelandic Illusions, Jonsi, Pitbull, Lord Pecalon, Danheim, Domansed, Rachel Sandy, Guitar Islancio, Heilung, V.I.C., Marcia Griffiths, Cha Cha Slide, Jonsi

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

VSU President, Dr. Richard Carvajal and Cabinet; Dr. Nicole Cox;
Dr. Beibei Brantley; Ian Andersen; Danielle Kimble; Amber Porter
Programs and Offices of Valdosta State University: Advancement; Campus Mail;
Creative Services; Department of Art; Department of Music; Financial Services;
Foundation; Human Resources; Information Technology; Legal Affairs; Marketing &
Communications; Parking & Transportation; Plant Operations; Police Department;
Printing & Copy Services; Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff



PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

COMING SUMMER 2026



COMING SOON 2025-2026 SEASON

The Duchess of Malfi

A JACOBAN TRAGEDY BY JOHN WEBSTER

Adapted by Hank Rion

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1 AND NOVEMBER 3, 2025 AT 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025 AT 3 PM.

SAWYER THEATRE

The play was published in 1623, but it may have written as early as 1611. Based on a story in Painter's *Palace of Pleasure*, it is entirely possible that it has a foundation in fact. The story of a defiant woman who is destroyed by her corrupt brothers has fascinated and shocked audiences for centuries. | Adapted from Royal Shakespeare Company, Project Gutenberg, and Arden Early Modern Drama

Content rating: MA

Marisol

by José Rivera

FEBRUARY 19 - 21, 2026 AT 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026 AT 3 PM
SAWYER THEATRE

Winner of a 1993 Obie Award for playwriting, *Marisol* is an apocalyptic urban fantasy. Pulled into a celestial war to save the human race, Marisol Perez finds herself on a surreal journey through a terrifying New York City in chaos. A gritty, beautiful, often humorous, tale of one woman's struggle to retain hope and sanity in the midst of devastation, *Marisol* is a triumph of the human spirit.

Content rating: MA

Spring Dances: Pulse

MARCH 11-13, 2026 AT 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 AT 2:00 PM
SAWYER THEATRE

Spring Dances: Pulse is a collection of concert dance works and dance films created by VSU Dance Faculty. Dances will provoke, inspire, liberate, and leave audiences in awe as dances intertwine storytelling, abstract thought and superb artistry.

Content Rating PG

Love's Labour's Lost

A NEW MUSICAL BASED ON THE PLAY BY

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Songs by Michael Friedman

Book Adapted by Alex Timbers

APRIL 23 - 25 & 27-29, 2026 AT 7:00 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 AT 3 PM

Love's Labour's Lost is a smart, outrageous, and irreverent celebration of love and coming of age. Using Shakespeare's original text, this musical adaptation tells the story of the King and his best buds decide to swear off the joys of women, but when clever women from their past show up, they are forced to reconsider all of that nonsense.

Content Rating: PG 13

Adapted from Music Theatre International

FUNDRAISERS SUPPORTING VSU THEATRE & DANCE'S GOLDEN CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP & SUPPORT FUND

Fault Lines: Cracks in the World, Cracks in the Heart

PRESENTED BY THE THEATRE & DANCE

CABARET TROUPE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025 AT 6:00 PM

SAWYER THEATRE

In a world brimming with beauty, brutality, absurdity, and grace, what happens when everything begins to split apart? *Fault Lines* explores the breaking points in our lives through an evening of musical theatre that delves into chaos beneath the surface. Each moment cracks open a world in transition. And in the aftermath of destruction, what remains? Hope, humor, and the human will to rebuild. We are delighted to have you join us in Sawyer Theatre, which promises to be an unforgettable evening of powerful music and heartfelt storytelling. Featuring a dynamic mix of classic and contemporary musical theatre, this performance showcases the talent and passion of our exceptional students in the Theatre & Dance programs at Valdosta State University.

Content rating: G

Tickets for this event are not included in Flex Passes.

A Christmas Carol

ADAPTED BY IAN ANDERSEN

BASED ON CHARLES DICKENS' TALE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025 AT 1:30 PM
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 AT 1:30 PM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 1:30 PM
SAWYER THEATRE

The novella with the complete title of *A Christmas Carol*. In Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas., and its many iterations is a holiday classic. You and your family will be transported to London and the timeless redemption story of Ebenezer Scrooge. | This production will include performances by VSU Theatre & Dance faculty, students, and local children.

Flex Pass holders can purchase discounted tickets to A Christmas Carol.

The Spotlight Series

CELEBRATING STUDENT WORK

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 AT 7:00 PM
SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026 AT 2:00 PM
SAWYER THEATRE, VSU FINE ARTS BUILDING

Join us for the annual Spotlight Series as we shine a spotlight on our students and celebrate the work of our graduating seniors. | This performance is a ticketed event, proceeds support our Golden Circle Scholarship Fund which supports our Theatre & Dance students during their time here at Valdosta State University.

Tickets for this event are not included in Flex Passes.