

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

The Duchess
of *Malfi*

*By John Webster
Adapted by Hank Rion*

**October 29–November 1 & November 3, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Sunday, November 2, 2025 at 3:00 PM
SAWYER**

The Duchess of Malfi
is an Associate Entry in

 **The Kennedy Center**
American College
Theater Festival



VALDOSTA STATE
UNIVERSITY

Patron List *2025-2026*

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 October 23, 2025.

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VSU Theatre & Dance Faculty and Staff:

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H. Duke Guthrie
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Chalise Ludlow
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Ethan Parker
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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, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Richard A. Carvajal, Ph.D.
President



The Duchess of Malfi

By John Webster
Adapted by Hank Rion

CAST

The Duchess of Malfi	Addie Kyle
Her Brothers:	
Ferdinand, Duke of Calabria	David Cooper
The Cardinal	Mattis Ahlgrimm
Daniel de Bosola	Tomas Urroz Arena
Antonio Bologna	Taiger Glenn
Cariola	Rebekah Ballast
Delio	Aiden Parker
Julia	Arianna Mangus
Marchioness of Pescara	Tiah Carthers
Castruccio	Joshua Bowyer
Silvio	Emilio Eraydin
Rodrigo	Sydne Hirshman
Grisolan	Adrian Davis
Count Malateste	Ryan Blaumueller
Doctor	Quinn Reddick
Officers/Guards:	Joshua Bowyer, Olivia Martin, Anna Ramsey, Noah Velodota
Swings:	Joshua Bowyer, Adrian Davis, Olivia Martin, Anna Ramsey

Scenic Designer
Madison Grant

Lighting Designer
Joshua Williams

Costume Designer
Chalise Ludlow

Sound Designer
Angel G. Tirado Zepahua

Makeup & Hair Designers
**Ally Atkinson
Olivia Martin**

Special Effects Designers
**Ally Atkinson
Olivia Martin**

Stage Manager
Allison Rooker

Fight Choreographer
and Intimacy Coach
Ian Andersen

Technical Director
Madison Grant

Director
Hank Rion

THE RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION BY ANY MEANS IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

 **The Kennedy Center**
American College
Theater Festival

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The Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival

PRODUCTION TEAM

Assistant Stage Managers	Dayanara Dominguez Brynna Norris Bonnie Long Allison Rooker Joshua Williams Grace Schaefer Emily Steele Melanie Krone Ellie Holmes Ulysses Martinez Emma Treece
Assistant Director	Juanita Justo
Head Carpenter	Hannah Seyler
Master Electrician	Kayla Thapvongsa
Fly Captain	Lillabeth Mason
Fly Operator	Marcus Barajas
Deck Captain	Elinor Fenimore
Deck Crew	Dr Anna Rogers Dallas Serena Geddings Ella Gable Santana Gaskin
Props Master	Juanita Justo
Props Handlers	Savannah Davis Ally Atkinson Olivia Martin
Lightboard Operator	Kathy Raess-Young
Soundboard Operator/A1	Juanita Justo
Wardrobe Supervisor	Allison Rooker
Wardrobe/Makeup Crew	Grace Schaefer Hannah Seyler THEA 2750 THEA 3720A
Blood Crew	Ally Atkinson
Blood Deck Crew	Sydne Hirshman Torie Kanes Olivia Martin Dr Anna Rodgers Dallas Serna-Geddings
Hair and Wigs Supervisor	THEA 2730B THEA 3720C
Costume Shop Manager	Michaela Andersen
Scene Shop Assistants	Ryan Blaumueller Savanna Davis Toriah Drake Carter Exum Shelby Howell Saniah Lewis Anna Noelle Robinson Nick Singleton Dorothy Collins Tristan Thomas
Scene Shop Personnel	Drew Champion
Costume Shop Assistants	Tiah Carthers Bonnie Long Bonnie Long Allison Rooker
Costume Shop Personnel	
Box Office Manager	
Box Office Treasurers	
House Managers	
Photographer & Videographer	
Social Media Coordinator	
Playbill Coordinator	
Office Assistants	

DIRECTORS NOTES

First performed in 1613, John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* is a story of love, power, and control. What makes it remarkable is how close it still feels today. At its center is a woman who chooses to live—and love—on her own terms, only to face devastating consequences from those who cannot accept her independence.

Webster's world is filled with extremes: devotion and betrayal, tenderness and cruelty, family bonds and family destruction. Though the play is centuries old, its questions are timeless. How far will people go to control those they claim to love? What happens when ambition outweighs compassion?

This production does not shy away from the darker elements of Webster's vision. At times, the violence may be unsettling. But these moments are not presented for shock—they are reminders of the emotional and psychological stakes at play, and of the fragility of freedom when confronted with fear and obsession.

For me, what lingers most is not the brutality but the Duchess herself: her courage, her love, and her refusal to be silenced. That is what makes this tragedy feel alive, urgent, and, even after 400 years, profoundly human.

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



The Kennedy Center

*The Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, part of the Rubenstein Arts Access Program, is generously funded by **David M. Rubenstein.***

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Additional support is provided by The Honorable Stuart Bernstein and Wilma E. Bernstein; and the Dr. Gerald and Paula McNichols Foundation.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts.

This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

COMING SOON 2025-2026 SEASON

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.*

