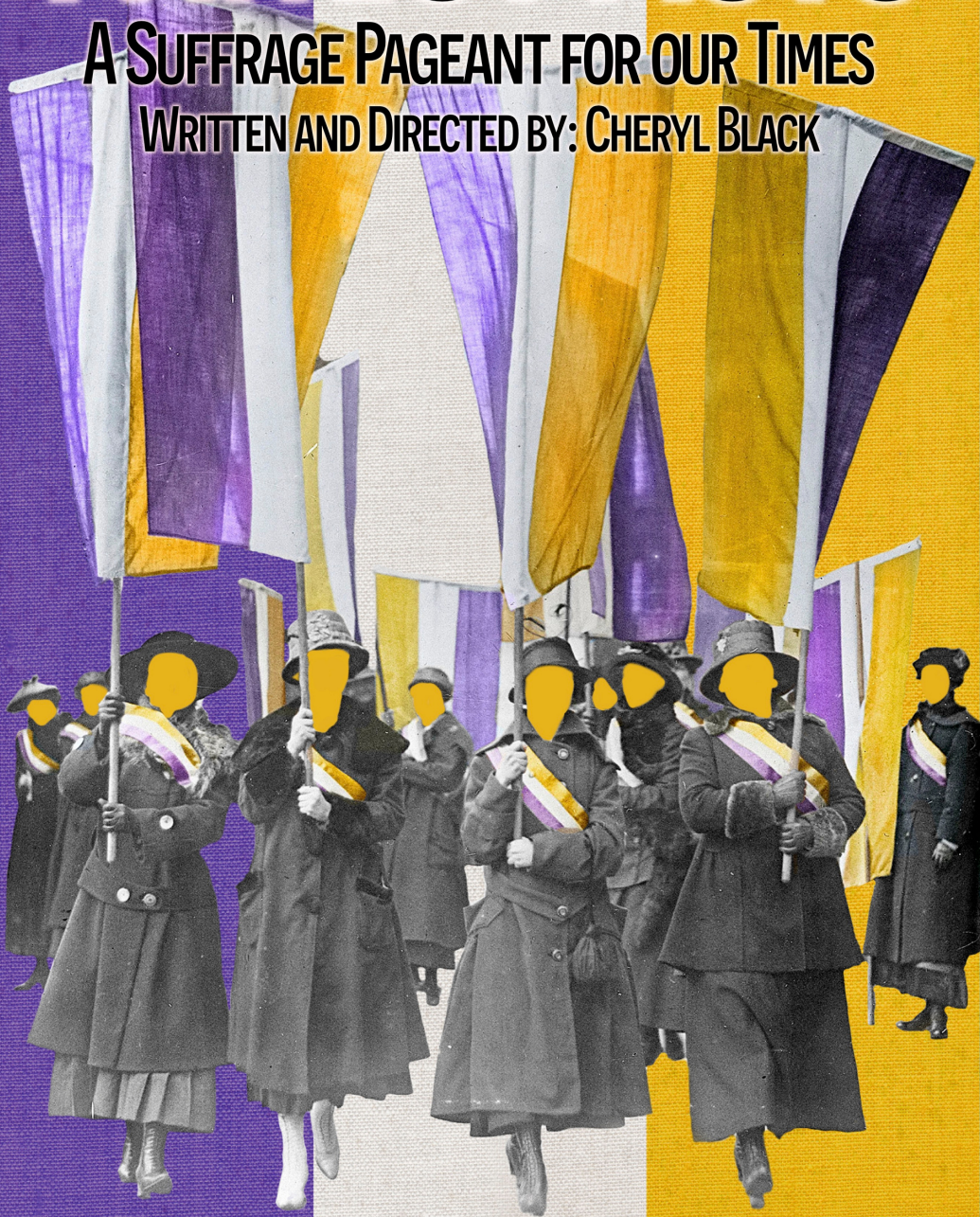


UNION COLLEGE THEATER AND DANCE PRESENTS:

PATRIOT ACTS

A SUFFRAGE PAGEANT FOR OUR TIMES

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY: CHERYL BLACK



Audiences are cautioned that the play contains loud noises, bright lights and direct quotes on topics such as gender and race taken from historic source materials. These quotes include outdated viewpoints and wording that is biased and discriminatory, and may be offensive to modern viewers.

Patriot Acts

Written & Directed by Cheryl Black

Stage Manager -- Victoria Avon
Scenic Design -- Drew Bodd
Costume Design -- Brittney Belz
Lighting/Projection Design -- Ollie Taylor
Technical Director -- Drew Bodd
Production Manager -- Brittney Belz

CAST

Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, & others ----- Jolita Brettler
Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, & others ----- Dana Aument
Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, & others ----- Maggie Kelley*
Lucy Stone, Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Dowsett, & others - Seona Chutaro
Mary Church Terrell, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, & others ----- Evie Tilison
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Maria Lopez, & others ----- Mel De La Cruz
Abigail Adams, Mabel Lee, & others ----- Alanna Byrne
Mrs. Phoebe Burn, Laura, & others ----- Ashlesha Bhagat
Atty. Richard Crowley, Atty. Dudley Malone, & others ----- Ishita Khambete
Marie Jenney Howe, Sen. Henry Blair, & others ----- Anthony Montás
Atty. Henry Selden, Chief Justice John Roberts, & others --- Jay Hernandez
John Adams, Rep. Harry Burn, & others ----- Matthew Connolly
Henry Blackwell, Snorkey, & others ----- Matt Parr
Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, & others ----- Eli Coleman
Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, Announcer, & others ----- Thomas Raimo

*in partial fulfillment of the senior thesis.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Assistant Stage Manager -- Lilian Ruggieri
House Manager -- Lexi Knowles
Box Office Team -- Charlie Jones, Brendan Cullen, Aldo Leal
Scene Shop Supervisor -- Robin MacDuffie
Graphic Designer -- Andrew Mannion
Stage Management Mentor -- Mackenzie Trowbridge
Musical Director - Thomas Raimo
Choreographer - Mel De La Cruz

Run Crew

Light Board Operator -- Ollie Taylor

Costume Shop Work Study

Dana Aument, Elaine Du, Evelyn Mallory, Emmett Suh, Christian Thompson,
Ysobel Thompson, Jennifer Vil

Scene Shop Work Study

Jerome Anderson, Victoria Avon, Zach Dickinson, Lexi Knowles,
Eli Valore-Caplan

Stage Lighting Design Class

Andrew Barton, Eugene D'Amico, Wyatt Gehman, Vic Lucontoni,
Phuong Nguyen, Brian Rusk, Samiratou Sanga, Asher Zive

DIRECTORS NOTE

Performing History, Performing Democracy

True Patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else.

Clarence Darrow

An earlier version of this play (then titled Votes for Women) was headed for production in 2020 to commemorate the centennial of the passage of the nineteenth amendment. It opened on March 11, and closed the next day as COVID sent everyone into isolation. Now revised and retitled, it seems especially fitting that this play about a quest for voting rights is going up in 2024, a year The Economist has named the "biggest election year in history," noting that eight of the most populous nations in the world are holding elections in 2024. The significance of these elections has been highlighted by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa, who has asserted that "We will know whether democracy lives or dies by the end of 2024." Tonight's performance is intended to recognize and honor those who struggled for centuries to secure America's long-deferred dream of liberty and justice for all. It is based on a text more "wrought" than "written," assembled from a plethora of historical and dramatic sources, including speeches, letters, sermons, songs, newspaper reports, memoirs, poems, and plays. Creating this work was immensely aided by the degree to which the suffrage movement itself relied on theatrical performance to garner attention. The heroines, heroes, and villains of the movement are legion, and I apologize in advance for omitting your favorites among them. Doing full justice to this story in ninety minutes is impossible, but I hope that what you see and hear tonight will inspire further research, study, thought, and action. For American Democracy, which we take for granted at our peril, is a work in progress, and "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." My gratitude to my artistic collaborators—the multi talented production team and cast who did not flinch at taking on a project with more locations and characters than the Epic of Gilgamesh—is infinite.

Cheryl Black

THEATER & DANCE FACULTY & STAFF

Omonike Akinyemi - Adjunct Instructor of Dance - Flamenco

Hettie Vyrine Barnhill - Adjunct Instructor of Theater & Dance

Brittney Belz - Interim Department Chair, Costume Designer & Costume supervisor

Cheryl Black - Visiting Assistant Professor of Theater

Drew Bodd - Technical Director & Lighting Design

Megan Flynn - Gustave L. Davis '59 and Susan S. Davis Director of Dance, Artist-in-Residence

Brenna Geffers - Adjunct Instructor of Theater

Christine Geren - Adjunct Instructor of Dance - Ballet and Pilates

Charlie Jones - Office Assistant

Jorge Luna - Adjunct Instructor of Theater

Robin MacDuffie - Scene Shop Technician

Andrew Mannion - Senior Lecturer of Theater and Dance, Scene Design, Painting & Video

Freddy Ramirez - Adjunct Instructor of Dance - Jazz & Broadway

Victoria Rotondi - Arts Department Coordinator

Mackenzie Trowbridge - Adjunct Stage Management

Dan Venning - Theatre History, Dramatic Literature, Performance Criticism, & Dramaturgy

Laurie Zabele Cawley - Assistant Director of Dance

Patricia Culbert - Professor Emerita Theater and Dance faculty 1997-2019.

William A. Finlay - Professor Emeritus Chair of Theater and Dance from 1994-2019

Miryam Moutillet - Professor Emerita Dance Faculty 1996-1999 & 2001-2022

Charles Steckler - Professor Emeritus The Dwane W. Crichton Professor of Theater, Stage Designer

CAST & CREW BIOS

Jolita Brettler - Sojourner Truth, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, & others

Jolita Brettler is a Theater and Visual Arts ID major from NYC. Having been a part of many performing arts from a young age, Jolita has fully returned to the field after taking a short break in high school having already been part of several Union productions in the last three years. This isn't the first, and certainly won't be the last, performance in Jolita's performance portfolio.

Dana Aument - Lucretia Mott, Alice Paul, & others

Dana Aument (she/her) is a Biology major here at Union and is currently a sophomore. Coming from Woodstock, MD this is her third production with the Union College Theater department. She was also Manuel in *FLORIDITA, My Love* and Little Girl/Time in a staged reading of *Everybody*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Maggie Kelley - Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, & others

Maggie Kelley (she/her) is a Senior English & Theater double major with a Computer Science minor from Wenham, MA. She has performed in many Union College Theatre productions including *The Sex Habits of American Women* (Daisy), *Club Dragonfly* (Dragonfly), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hippolyta/Fairy Swing), and *Sweat* (Tracey), and with Mountebanks, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Schwartz). She is doing her senior thesis on this process and is thrilled to share this important story with you all.

Seona Chutaro - Lucy Stone, Wilhelmina Kekelaokalaninui Dowsett, & others

Seona Chutaro (she/they) is a First Year from Honolulu, Hawaii majoring in Political Science. This is her second production with the Union College theater department, previously performing in *FLORIDITA, My Love* as Milagros. She is very grateful for the wonderful cast and crew of *Patriot Acts* and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Evie Tilison - Mary Church Terrell, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, & others

Evie Tilison (she/her) is a first-year student. *Patriot Acts* will be Evie's first production. Evie is very grateful to have met and worked alongside such wonderful people. She wants to thank those who love and support her every day and say she wouldn't be whole without them.

With love, Evie.

CAST & CREW BIOS

Mel De La Cruz - Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Maria Lopez, & others

Melanie De La Cruz ("Mel") (she/her) is a first generation second year student from Tampa, Florida. She is a Theater and Political Science double major with a minor in Dance. She is incredibly grateful for her time at Union, especially for the people and mentors she has met through unforgettable opportunities. She is passionate for the arts, and can't wait to see what she does next! She hopes you enjoy the show! Besitos! Romans 13:10 NIV

Alanna Byrne - Abigail Adams, Mabel Lee, & others

Alanna (they/them) is a sophomore Psychology and Asian studies double major, considering a visual arts minor. This is their first time performing in a Union College production, and their second time being involved in one (the first being *Sweat* in Spring 2023 as an assistant stage manager.) They would like to thank their dog for being alive. Also their friends, like Cagla, and their family... And Tremaine, I guess.

Ashlesha Bhagat - Mrs. Phoebe Burn, Laura, & others

Ashlesha (she/her) is a Computer Science and Visual Arts Double Major with a Seward Minor. She is an international student from Kolkata, India. Getting involved with Union College Theater Department was her first brush with theater. This is her second production at Union, the first being Stage Director for *Everybody* in Winter Stage Readings 2023. She is very excited to work with such an amazing team! She would like to thank her family, especially her mom and dad, and all her friends for their constant support.

Ishita Khambete - Atty. Richard Crowley, Atty. Dudley Malone, & others

Ishita is a junior Biology major with two minors in German Studies and Environmental Sciences and Policy. She has been involved in two previous productions at Union - *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *FLORIDITA, My Love* as an assistant stage manager. This is her first time acting in a play at the college. She is looking forward to acting and is grateful to her friends and family for their support.

Anthony Montás - Marie Jenney Howe, Sen. Henry Blair, & others

Anthony (they/she) is a sophomore Psychology major with a double minor in Theater and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies from Boston, MA. Her love for theater and the arts started as a kid and has followed her all the way through to now in her second theatre production at Union. They can not wait to keep getting involved and seeing where Yulman can take them.

CAST & CREW BIOS

Jay Hernandez - Atty. Henry Selden, Chief Justice John Roberts, & others

Jacob "Jay" Hernandez (he/him) is a junior from Santa Ana, California who is majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Theater. He has previously portrayed Oscar in Union's spring 2023 production of *Sweat* by Lynn Nottage and García in the department's fall 2023 production of *FLORIDITA, My Love* by Javier Antonio González. He wants to thank everyone in the cast and crew for the work they put into this production and his family back home for supporting him in every way possible.

Matthew Connolly - John Adams, Rep. Harry Burn, & others

Matthew Connolly (he/him) is a Sophomore Classics Major from Bethlehem, New York. He has been doing theatre for about eight years now and would like to thank Cheryl Black for directing and writing this show and the rest of the cast and crew for their tireless work and support.

Matt Parr - Henry Blackwell, Snorkey, & others

Matthew Parr (he/him) is a junior Music/Theater double major at Union College. He's loved performing since 6th grade and has been in productions ever since. At Union, he's been in *Sex Habits of an American Woman*, *Club Dragonfly*, and *Act A Lady*. In his free time, he loves singing, hanging out with friends, and playing video games. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Eli Coleman - Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, & others

Eli Coleman (he/him) is a Senior Theater Major From East Greenwich, RI. He started Theater at Union college as a first year and this is his first production since the pandemic. He will be playing the role of Fredrick Douglas and WEB Dubois. He would also like to thank Cheryl for having faith in him for these big roles.

Thomas Raimo - Pres. Theodore Roosevelt, Announcer, & others

Thomas Raimo (any/all) is a Senior Neuroscience and Theater major from Burnt Hills, NY! They are very excited to add *Patriot Acts* to her pile of shows completed at Union, among *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Lysander), *Pride and Prejudice* (Mr. Bennet), *FLORIDITA: My Love* (Aguilú/Pepo), the UC Mountebanks production of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfee), and the upcoming Mountebanks production of *She Loves Me* (Ladislav Sipos). He hopes you enjoy *Patriot Acts* and its music, which they so lovingly directed.

CAST & CREW BIOS

Victoria Avon - Stage Manager

Victoria Avon (she/her) is a senior Biology and Psychology double major from Cortlandt Manor, NY. She has been working behind the scenes for every show in Yulman since her freshman year and finally decided to declare a theater minor in exchange for a really cool hat. She is honored to have been given the opportunity to stage manage a performance and would like to thank her friends, family, and production team for their support (& late night food donations). Enjoy the show!

Lilian Ruggieri - Assistant Stage Manager

Lilian Ruggieri (she/her) is a junior Theater major at Union College. She has performed in many plays but this is her first time being an Assistant Stage Manager. She is excited for people to see the show and can't think of anything else to write.

Ollie Taylor - Lighting/Projection Designer & Light Board Operator

Ollie Taylor (he/they) is a senior Classics and Computer Science double major and Theater minor from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. While at Union, Ollie has worked on *Trojan Women* (Drums/Gamelan), *The Sex Habits of American Women* (crew), Stage Manager of both Winter 2023 staged readings, and was light board operator for both *Sweat* and *FLORIDITA, my Love*. This is their first time as a lighting designer for a show and he would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Lilian Ruggieri, Ollie Taylor, Lexi Knowles, Armaan Uppal, Mackenzie Trowbridge, and Brittney Belz for being our rehearsal stand-ins.

Thank you to Professor Zoe Oxley and Jorge Luna.

Thank you to Mel De La Cruz for helping with Spanish translation.

**Photography, videography, and audio recording
are not permitted during this production.**



We acknowledge that we live, work, and study at Union College on the traditional homelands that were originally peopled by the Iroquois Confederacy, including the Cayuga, Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Haudenosaunee (The People of the Longhouse), and other tribes. What we call Schenectady is a Dutch version of a Mohawk word skahnéhtati, meaning 'The Place Beyond the Pines.' As a College, we honor the land itself with gratitude and acknowledge the people who have stewarded the land throughout the ages.

**Coming soon from
Union Theater & Dance**

Winter 2024

Winter Dance Concert 2024
Borders and Boundaries
February 28th- March 2nd

Spring 2024

Steinmetz Dance Festival
May 10th

Intimate Afternoon with Dancers
May 17th

You on the Moors Now
by Jaclyn Backhaus directed by Jasmine Roth
May 29th-June 2nd

Union College Theater & Dance Department
www.union.edu/theater-dance
(518) 388-7129



@unioncollegetheatre



/UCDoTD