Bastille Day

Written by Caroline Bourque

Directed by Tyler Lentz

November 12 - 15, 2020
www.play.pitt.edu
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Production Team

Stage Manager Gianna Denman
Dramaturg Emily Niedbala
Scenic Designer Elizabeth Amstutz
Digital Advisor Kelly Trumbull

BASTILLE DAY is approximately 50 minutes long
Note from the director:

The COVID-19 Epidemic has sent a shockwave through industries across America, and the performing arts are no different. As of writing this, all Broadway stages are closed until May 30, 2021. The theatre industry is built upon being live and in person and rehearsing together in close quarters, so we had the same question as many others; how do we continue while six feet apart?

Theatres have been trying to answer this question in different ways over the past few months. La Jolla Playhouse created Portazela, an immersive experience involving a package of materials and instructions being sent directly to audiences. Eschaton is an experience delivered through Whatsapp and Zoom designed to place the audience in a 1940’s nightclub. Our own Pitt Stages took on She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms, a live stage play reimagined for digital performance. As the world changes around us, the way theatre is presented must also change.

“Bastille Day” is a play contained entirely within the world of Zoom. As a new play, it was edited throughout the rehearsal process, adapted to discoveries as they were made. The limitations of a virtual performance can be turned into opportunities to try something new. Oftentimes there are more questions than answers. In 2020 there is a sea of uncharted waters ahead of us.

Let’s all dive in together.

Tyler Lentz
Special Thanks

Ricardo Vila-Roger
Riley Stitch
Kevin Stiles
M.K. Hughes
Harley and Canary
Caroline Bourque

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Caroline Bourque (Playwright) is a recent Pitt graduate, with a degree in English writing and a minor in film studies. During her time at Pitt she mainly pursued journalism, interning at local news outlets and serving as an editor with The Pitt News, and she’s currently working remotely for a magazine in Denver. She grew up with a love of theater and developed a love for playwriting during her undergraduate courses with Professor Kathy George. “Bastille Day” is the first staged production of her own work, and she is thrilled by the talent and hard work the entire team has put forth in its development.

The Cast

Kyle ........................................................................................................... Lance Gibney
Nadine ................................................................................................. Ella Mizera
Annie ..................................................................................................... Hannah Wright

The Company

Lance Gibney (Kyle) makes his theatre debut. He enjoyed the process of acting and is grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the play with no prior experience. Lance is a freshman at Pitt and looks forward to possibly participating in future performances with UP Stages.

Ella Mizera (Nadine) is excited to be a part of her first Pitt production! A freshman interested in theatre and political science, she last appeared in Redeye 16.2, South Hills Players’ Quarantine Comedy Festival, and Back to the 80s, and is also assistant director of the Youth Shakespeare Society of Pittsburgh.

Hannah Wright (Annie) is a freshmen psychology major working to minor in theatre. Hannah has had a wonderful time taking part in this play. The zoom-based production has been an experience like no other show she has ever done. This is her first production at the University of Pittsburgh, and she is very excited to see what the future holds.
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Technical Director..........................................................Eben Alguire
Head Electrician/Shop Foreperson.............................Kyle Cameron
Prop Shop Manager..........................................................M.K. Hughes

Director ..........................................................................Tyler Lentz
Stage Manager .................................................................Gianna Denman
Dramaturg ...............................................................Emily Niedbala
Scenic Designer ............................................................Elizabeth Amstutz
Digital Advisor ............................................................Kelly Trumbull
Faculty Advisor ..........................................................Ricardo Vila-Roger

The Production Team

Elizabeth Amstutz (Scenic Designer) is a freshman studying digital narrative and interactive design and looking to pursue a minor in theatre arts. Previously working as a lighting designer, she’s made the switch to scenic designer for her first show at Pitt! While braving the challenges of Zoom, she’s had a blast working on “Bastille Day” and working with other newcomers on the project. She’s excited to keep expanding her knowledge and skillset in the theatre and participating in more productions!

Gianna Denman (Stage Manager) thrilled to be stage managing her first show with UP Stages. Gianna is a junior psychology major minoring in theatre arts. This is her fourth UP Stages show and she has worked previously Much Ado About Nothing (dresser), spot op for Into the Woods (spot operator) and On Trial (assistant stage manager). This is also the first Zoom play she has ever worked on and hopes you enjoy the show.

Tyler Lentz (Director) is a senior theatre arts major, and thrilled to present this experiment within the new world of Zoom theatre. Past credits include Appropriate (assistant director), The Verge (master electrician), Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights (stage manager,
lighting designer, and master electrician), Woyzeck (stage manager), and Much Ado About Nothing (stage manager). He has also interned with the Hillman Center for Performing Arts (management mentor, assistant director) and Footlight Players (stage management intern).

Emily Niedbala (Dramaturg) is very excited to be working as a dramaturg for the first time on this new play. After many years doing theatre onstage and off, this is her fifth Pitt Stages show, having worked on Woyzeck (light operator), Doctor Faustus Lights the Lights, The Verge (assistant stage manager), and Miss You Like Hell (assistant choreographer). Emily is a junior theatre arts major who is also in the ASL certificate program.
University of Pittsburgh
Department of Theatre Arts

ABOUT

The Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh is an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and offers BA, MFA, and PhD degrees in Theatre Arts. The Department believes in a philosophy of theatre education based on the integration of theory and practice, academic and creative work, and educational and professional theatre.

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Directed by Julia Kreutzer
February 2021

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Directed by Rebecca Hobart
April 2021