

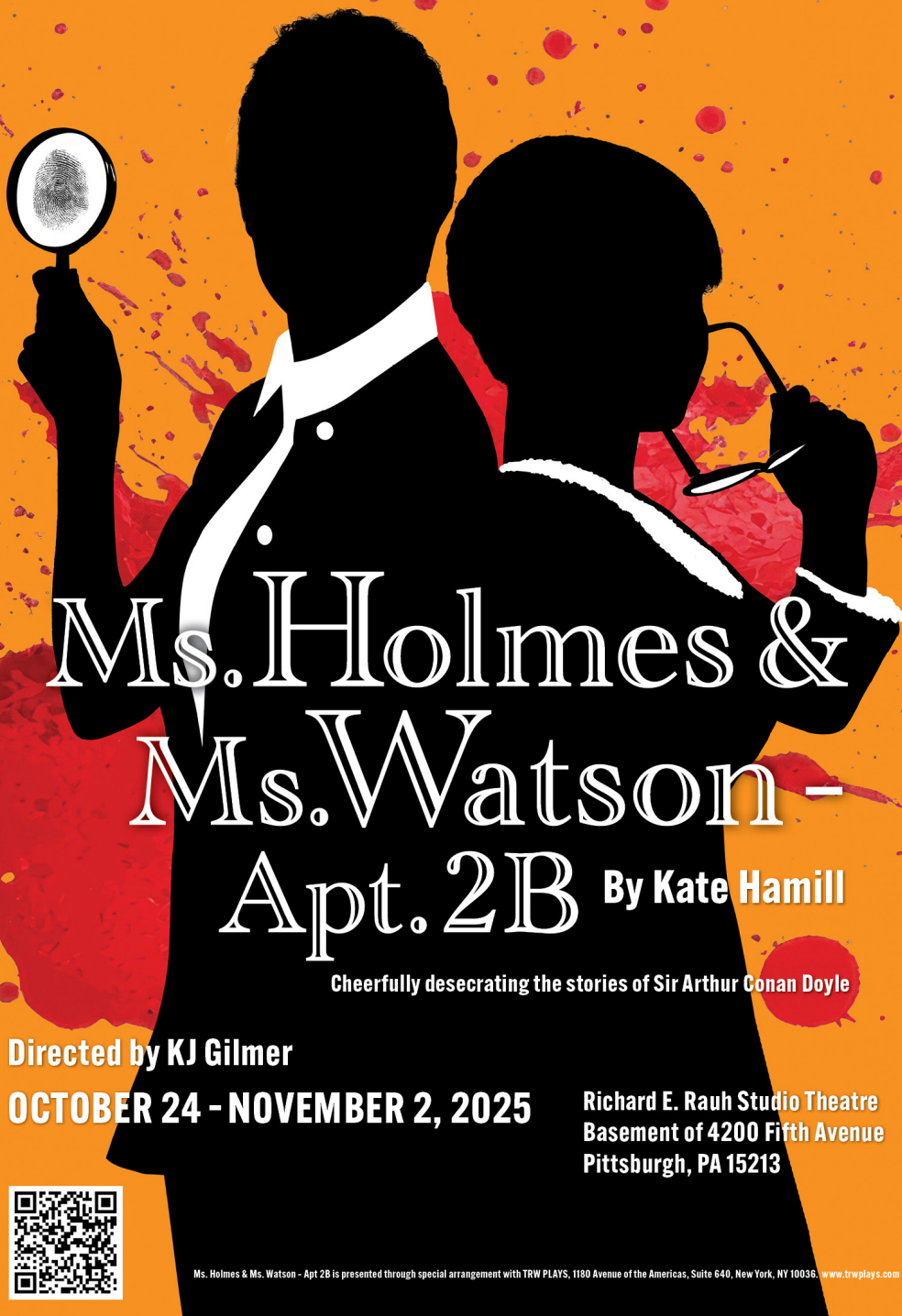
PITT STAGES presents

transformations

The 2025-2026 Season



University of
Pittsburgh®



Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B

By Kate Hamill

Cheerfully desecrating the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Directed by KJ Gilmer

OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Richard E. Rauh Studio Theatre
Basement of 4200 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213



Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt 2B is presented through special arrangement with TRW PLAYS, 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.trwplays.com

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Sherlock Holmes is the quintessential modern detective. As a child, I was captivated by mystery stories—Encyclopedia Brown, Nancy Drew, and The Hardy Boys were my constant companions. So, when I was invited to direct *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson: Apt. 2B*, I was immediately drawn to the zany, dark humor that Kate Hamill brings to this reimagining of the Holmes legacy.

Until now, my directing work has focused on serious dramatic texts—*The Mountaintop*, *Hamlet*, *Flyin' West*, and *Intimate Apparel*. I've long wanted to direct a comedy, but the right opportunity didn't come along—until this play. Hamill's script is a delightful blend of absurdity and insight, and I've described it as *Laverne & Shirley* meets *CSI: London*. While Holmes and Watson debate whether they're truly roommates or just reluctant allies, the play explores themes of friendship, rivalry, and the thrill of solving mysteries.

Sherlock Holmes was originally created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for *The Strand Magazine*, inspired by his professor Dr. Joseph Bell—a master of deduction through meticulous attention to detail. As a costume designer, I understand that detail is not just decorative but essential to building character. In *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson: Apt. 2B*, Holmes delivers a line that perfectly captures this philosophy: “Never jump to kittens.” It's a humorous yet insightful reminder not to rush to conclusions, but to allow the smaller pieces to come together and reveal the bigger picture. This idea has guided our entire creative process—from character development and design to staging and movement.

The cast has embraced this journey with laughter, light, discovery, and joy. Physical comedy demands precision, trust, and collaboration, and this production has been a testament to the power of ensemble work—supported by our assistant director, design team, faculty, staff, and production crew. One of the most exciting discoveries during our process was the integration of African drum and dance as a foundation for movement and character development.

Inspired by my Fulbright sojourn in Dakar, Senegal, this approach brought new depth to our storytelling. Working with West African artists Kyaïen Conner and Cheikh N'Dong, the cast engaged in workshops that explored rhythm, gesture, and communal energy—elements that now inform the physical language of our characters and enrich the comedic timing and emotional texture of the show. African drum and dance offer a powerful lens for exploring character, emotion, and transformation. Rooted in rhythm and communal storytelling, these traditions bring vitality to the play's fast-paced, irreverent tone.

They help actors connect with ancestral energy, intuition, and improvisation—aligning beautifully with the themes of mystery, partnership, and reinvention. In rehearsal, we found that the heartbeat of the drum underscores tension and humor, while dance provides a vocabulary for relationships and internal shifts. This fusion enriches the theatrical experience, grounding our characters in a vibrant tradition that celebrates movement, identity, and storytelling.

Thank you for joining us tonight. We hope you enjoy this at times bloody, bold, playful retelling of *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson: Apt. 2B*. And remember—you're not the only one with clever ideas.

Enjoy the Show!

KJ Gilmer

Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B

Cheerfully desecrating the stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Written by Kate Hamill
Directed by KJ Gilmer

Cast

Sherlock Holmes..... Mercedes Maynard
Joan Watson..... Emi Prudhoe
Lestrade..... Nicholas Ocampo
Mrs. Drebber..... Donovan Polito
Mrs. Hudson..... Heather Royer
Elliot Monk..... Dillon Daisy
Irene Adler..... Lizzy Boulos

***Content Warnings:**

Haze, Flashing lights, Scenes of copious amounts of stage blood,
Profanity, Adult situations, Adult themes, Drug User, Smoking,
Theatrical Weapons, Self-Harm, Murder by suicide, Mutilation

Production & Creative Teams

Director.....	KJ Gilmer
Assistant Director.....	Howard Patterson
Stage Manager.....	Maggie Megosh
Assistant Stage Manager.....	Maya Viaropulos
Faculty Advisor.....	Becki Toth
Set Designer.....	Britton Mauk
Props Manager.....	Bridgette Dona
Costume Designer.....	KJ Gilmer
Sound Designer.....	Howard Patterson
Assistant Sound Designer.....	Glor Mancilla
Lighting Designer.....	Hayley Rizor
Assistant Lighting Designer.....	Sienna Dixon
Dialect Coach.....	Kelly Trumbull
Fight Director.....	Tonya Lynn
Fight Consultant.....	José Pérez IV
Intimacy Choreographer.....	KJ Gilmer
Asst. Fight & Intimacy Choreographer.....	Virginia Keister

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Playwright Biography

Kate Hamill is an actor & playwright. Regularly appearing on TCG's most produced playwrights list, she was the Wall Street Journal Playwright of the Year in 2017 and received the Einhorn Award in 2023. Plays include *Pride & Prejudice* - Primary Stages / HVSF (originated role of Lizzy; nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award), *Sense & Sensibility* at Bedlam (originated role of Marianne; winner, Off-Broadway Alliance Award; nominee, Drama League Award); *Vanity Fair* at the Pearl (originated Becky; nominee, Off-Broadway Alliance Award), *Little Women* at Primary Stages, *Dracula* at Classic Stage Company, *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson, Apt. #2B* at KCRep, *Emma* at the Guthrie, *The Scarlet Letter* at Two River, *The Light & The Dark* at Chautauqua Theater Company and Primary Stages and *The Odyssey* at ART in Boston. www.kate-hamill.com



Cast Biographies

Lizzy Boulos (Irene Adler) is thrilled to be making her Pitt Stages debut in *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B*. She is a Junior studying Communications at the University of Pittsburgh. Lizzy is excited to bring Irene Adler's sharp wit and complexity to the stage and is grateful to be part of this amazing cast and creative team.

Dillon Daisy (Elliot Monk) is Junior here at the University of Pittsburgh and has participated within Pitt Stages since his sophomore year, being involved in the productions of *Trifles* and *As You Like It* last Fall and Spring. Dillon hopes to continue his acting career further through continued auditions inside the University of Pittsburgh and out. To Dillon, acting is one of his many joys in life, and has loved the journey that it has given him thus far. He would like to extend his gratitude to his friends, family, and loved ones that give him the support he needs to continue to be the best performer he knows he can be. "I love you all, And I hope you enjoy this production of *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson: Apt. 2B*."

Mercedes Maynard (Sherlock Holmes) is so incredibly excited to partake in her first Pitt Stages show. She is a Junior at Pitt studying Psychology and minoring in French Studies and Theatre Arts! Doing this show has been so fun and she has learned so much! She is so very appreciative to be working with all the amazing people involved in putting on this show, and hopes everyone that comes to see it enjoys it.

Cast Biographies

Nick Ocampo (Lestrade) ('28) is a transfer student new to the Pitt community, studying Data Science and Theatre Arts. He is incredibly excited to be performing in his Pitt Stages debut! Other creative feats on campus include writing for Pitt Tonight and singing in the Songburghs. He is grateful to work with the wonderful cast and crew of *Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson - Apt. 2B* and hopes you have as much fun watching the show as he has being in it!

Donovan Polito (Mrs. Drebber) is excited to be a part of *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson- Apt 2B*. Recently, she appeared as Mr. Lawrence in *Little Women the Musical* and Linus van Pelt in *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, both at Emory and Henry University. She is currently pursuing a BA in Theatre Arts and a minor in dance. She would like to thank her mom, siblings, and friends for their continued support in all that she does.

Emi Prudhoe (Joan Watson) is a Senior majoring in Ecology and Evolution and minoring in Theatre Arts. Last year, Emi participated in her first two shows at Pitt, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Helena) and *Morning Reckoning* (Nadia) - two amazing experiences that she will forever be grateful for! She would like to thank her cast and crew for funny memories and for their unwavering support throughout this entire process. She would also like to thank her previous and current theatre professors and peers who helped her form a deep love for this art medium. Thank you for coming out and enjoy the show!

Heather Royer (Mrs. Hudson) is delighted to be rejoining Pitt Stages this semester! Some previous work includes *Ordinary Days* as Deb. She is so grateful to be given the opportunity to be a part of this production and wants to thank the cast and crew for their hard work and dedication.

Director Biography

KJ Gilmer (Director and Costume Designer) is a member of the design faculty in Costume Design at the University of Pittsburgh, where she also teaches courses in costume design and performance. She brings a dynamic, interdisciplinary approach to theatre education, emphasizing collaboration, cultural competency, and creative risk-taking.

Ms. Gilmer holds a BA in French from West Chester University and an MFA in Costume Design from Boston University. Her design work spans opera, theatre, and dance, with credits including Gloucester Stage Company, Pittsburgh Public Theater, City Theatre Company, Quantum Theatre, Pittsburgh Opera, Pittsburgh Shakespeare in the Parks, Point Park, Pittsburgh Playhouse, St. Michael's Playhouse, Philadelphia Shakespeare Festival, Walnut Street Theatre, University of the Arts, Arden Theatre Company, and Everyman Theatre Company.

As a director, her productions credits include *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, *Spark* by Tom Arvetis, *Flyin' West* by Pearl Cleage, *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage, *Inside the Zoom* by Niccole Nero Gaines, and *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall.

Ms. Gilmer is also a theatrical intimacy choreographer, specializing in the consensual and culturally competent staging of scenes involving intimacy, race, disability, religion, and age. Her work fosters brave, inclusive creative spaces—particularly for BIPOC artists—across classrooms, rehearsals, and backstage environments.

Production & Creative Biographies

Calvin Falls (Run Crew) is excited to be participating in this production at Pitt! He is a Psychology major with a minor in Theater Arts. Calvin has previously participated in Pitt's production of *Our Town* as run crew. He hopes that you enjoy this show!

Abby Keller (Light Board Operator) is happy to be working on her second Pitt Stages show! Last semester, Abby worked backstage on *As You Like It*. Abby is a Sophomore Neuroscience major with a minor in Theatre Arts. She has previously worked on both lighting and sound for her high school theatre and community theatres in southeast PA, and also works as a theatre technician at Harford Community College. She hopes you enjoy *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson- Apt. 2B!*

Virginia Keister (Asst. Fight & Intimacy Choreographer) is a third-year Theatre Arts major/Disability Studies Cert/Secondary Ed minor here at Pitt and a co-founder of the Chariho Summer Stages theatrical literacy program of southern Rhode Island, where she has recently directed and served as a fight choreography mentor for *The Lightning Thief*.

Erin Kohle (Run Crew) has participated in minor theater positions beyond the campus, but this will be her first time taking part in any play with Pitt Stages. Aiming for a dual major in Psychology and Theater Arts, she hopes to embody the best of both worlds and while the former may be her profession, the latter will always be her passion. With this being her first attempt at working behind the scenes, she hopes to help the cast and crew in bringing to life a show that will stay with the audience well past the curtain call.



[Return to Production List](#)

Production biographies

Tonya Lynn (Fight Director) is a Teaching Artist-in-Residence at the University of Pittsburgh, and also regularly teaches and choreographs at Carnegie Mellon University and Point Park University. Her recent Pitt Stages credits include *Spring Awakening*, *The Inseparables*, and *Dead Man's Cell Phone*. Professionally, her credits include Pittsburgh Opera (*Il Trovatore*, *Pagliacci*, *Tosca*), the world premiere of *Storming Heaven* with West Virginia Public Theatre, and the original work *Sword Play* at Colonial Williamsburg, VA. Tonya is recognized as both Fight Director and Certified Teacher with the Society of American Fight Directors, and currently serves on their governing body as Fight Director Representative.

Maggie Megosh (Stage Manager) is excited to be participating in yet another production at Pitt! She is a Psychology and Theater Arts double major with a minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Women Studies. Maggie has previously worked on shows at Pitt such as *Trifles* and *Morning Reckoning*. She can't wait for you to see *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson – Apt. 2B* and hopes you enjoy the show as much as she's enjoyed working on it.

José Pérez IV (Fight Consultant) is the Resident Fight & Intimacy Director of Pittsburgh Public Theater. Select credits at The Public: *Noises Off*, *The Hobbit*, *The Coffin Maker*. Regional credits: *POTUS* (City Theatre), *Enron*, *Seagull*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (Quantum Theatre), *Dracula: a feminist revenge fantasy* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (Cleveland Play House). MFA Performance Pedagogy Pitt, BFA Drama NYU.



[Return to Production List](#)

Production biographies continued

Reilly (Sound Board Operator) looks forward to another production with Pitt Stages! A Senior, they major in Theatre Arts alongside currently pursuing a minor in Creative Writing; they previously worked on *Morning Reckoning*, also as a sound board operator. Please enjoy the show!

Kyle Schiff (Run Crew) is excited to be participating in this production at Pitt! He intends to major in Exercise Science with a minor in Theater Arts. This is Kyle's first production as run crew and is very excited to face the challenge. He hopes you enjoy the show!

Maya Viaropulos (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Sophomore DNID major in the Dietrich School. This is her third production with Pitt Stages and she is hopeful to be a part of more in the coming years. Previously, she has worked on North Allegheny's high school productions as well as Pitt Stage's *Dead Man's Cell Phone* (ASM) and *Morning Reckoning* (ASM). She hopes you enjoy the show!

Jayla Willis (Dresser) is excited to be participating in this production at Pitt! She intends to major in Business Management with a minor in Film and Media to further pursue her career as an independent game studio owner and developer. Before Pitt, she's worked on other shows as an assistant stage manager such as *Mamma Mia*, *Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and *PIPPIN*! This is Jayla's first Pitt production she's taking part in and is thrilled to see how it goes. She dearly hopes that the audience enjoys the show as much as she can bet the crew has.



[Return to Production List](#)

Special Thanks To

Ringo the Skeleton
Katie Mikula-Wineman
Mark & Elaine Bardzil
Pitt Gymnastics

And, special thanks for saving our bacon!



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PITT STAGES presents

transformations

The 2025-2026 Season

The theme of Transformations invites audiences to engage with Pitt Stages' 2025–2026 season through works that explore change, evolution, and metamorphosis in all their forms—personal, social, and fantastical. Our hope is that this theme resonates uniquely within each production, sparking conversation not only about the individual stories themselves but also about how they intersect to create a larger, cohesive dialogue across the season.

Kelly Trumbull, Chair of Season Selection Committee

Production Crew

Production Director.....	Hadley Armstrong
Staff Technical Director.....	Abbie Wagner
Student Assistant Technical Director.....	Julia Ferranti
Scenic Production Assistants.....	Liza Brown, Kyle Buchheister, and Aiden Wilt
Carpenters.....	Randy Miller, Victoria Murphy, Carola Petrucci, Elisabeth Fitzgerald, Keira Gibson, and the Introduction to Stagecraft Class
Faculty Props Manager.....	Bridgette Dona
Props Artisans.....	Sage Rosenfeld, Claudia Shrager, and 0880 students: Yide Liu, Griffin Maley, Daniel Onelangsy
Faculty Scenic Charge Artist.....	Alex Dolinger
Scenic Artists.....	Audrey Clare, Julia Ferranti, and Andie Schultz
Painters.....	Chloe Brokesh, Holly Egbert, Lauren Hoffman, and Sahasra Nagireddy
Sound Board Operator.....	Emma Reilly
Light Board Operator.....	Abby Keller
Draper.....	Maya Jones
Dressers.....	Kaitlyn Clougherty, Maitreyi Naikwadi, Joicy Wang, Jayla Willis
Stitchers.....	Eliver Russo, Akisse Morton, Emily Gomez, Seth Pittsburg, Kayley Brown, and the Costume Production & Technology Class
Student Head Electrician.....	Patrick Lovenguth
Show Electricians.....	Virginia Keister, Gertie Vance, Landon White, Tanay Durg, Sadie Seggerson, Jack Carfrey
Shop Electricians.....	Sam Orshan, Hayley Rizor, Miles Fraser
Stage Crew.....	Calvin Falls, Erin Kohle, Kyle Schiff

Support this work

With your help, we are able to showcase our students and faculty while building a future for theatre in our region. A contribution to the Department of Theatre Arts today ensures these programs will continue to enrich our cultural community. Thank you for supporting the arts!

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About Pitt Stages

Pitt Stages is the in-house production company for the Department of Theatre Arts at the University of Pittsburgh, an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre. 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.

Faculty

Department Chair..... Annmarie Duggan
Director of Graduate Studies..... Michelle Granshaw
Director of Undergraduate Studies..... Gianni P. Downs
Head of MFA in Performance Pedagogy..... Cynthia Croot
Head of Design, Technology, and Management..... KJ Gilmer
Head of History/Literature/Criticism..... Michelle Granshaw
Head of Performance..... Ricardo Vila-Roger
Faculty..... Kathleen George, Qianru Li, Britton Mauk,
Howard Patterson, Keelie Sheridan,
Becki Toth, Kelly Trumbull
Visiting Lecturer in History Literature and Criticism... Elizabeth Kurtzman
Chosky Teaching Artist-in-Residence..... Bridgette Dona
Richard E. Rauh Teaching Artist-in-Residence..... Tonya Lynn

Professor Emeriti..... W. Stephen Coleman, Don Mangone and
Bruce McConachie

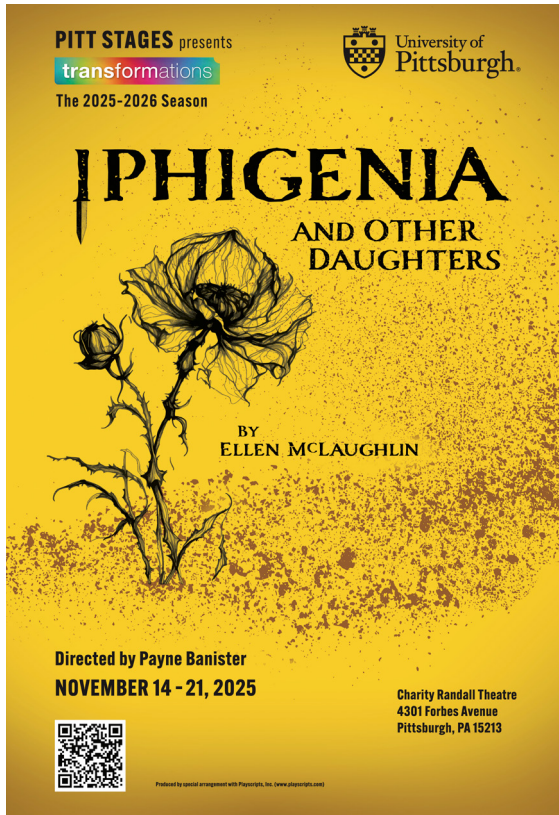
Administrative Staff

Arts Administrative Officer..... Ashley Martin
Production Director..... Hadley Armstrong
Academic Operation Manager..... Erin Delaney
Department Coordinator..... Micky Krenek
Academic Administrator..... Connie Markiw
Graduate Student Services Administrator..... LJ Woolcock-Srolovic
Patron and Rental Services Manager..... Jeremy Seghers
Marketing and Engagement Specialist..... Nicole Sauter
Business Coordinator..... Amanda Raczkowski

Production Staff

Technical Director..... JC Bardzil
Assistant Technical Director..... Abbie Wagner
Costume Shop Manager..... Ricky Campbell
Costume Shop Assistant Managers..... Brittany Graham, Maya Jones
Director of Lighting, Sound and Projections..... Forrest Trimble

Save the date for the next production!



This three-play cycle is a modern retelling of the fall of the House of Atreus. It follows the children of Clytemnestra and Agamemnon, siblings who are both players in the family tragedy and victims of it. The cycle of blood and vengeance seems inescapable until the final reunion of a lost sister and brother brings the bloody family saga to its mystical and unlikely end.



PITT THEATRE ARTS