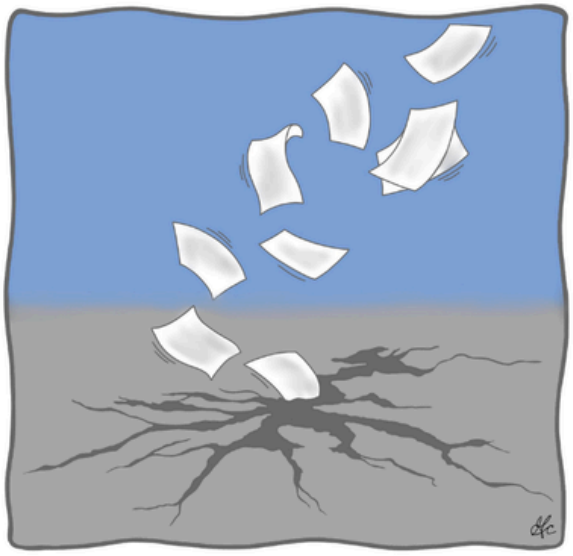
MONMOUTH COLLEGE THEATRE
presents



breaking ground

a festival of short new plays written and directed by Monmouth College students

featuring

With You, Always by Adyson Beebe '29, directed by Ray Shaul '27
Katia by Edrass Chávez-Alvarado '26, directed by Abby Zayas '27 & Quenby Wilson '28
Ash on the Heart by Ray Shaul '27, directed by Guest Artist Vea Vavrosky '25
Something Fishy this Way Comes by Abby Zayas '27 & Jennifer Ruscitti '26, directed by Emma Heiser '27

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026

FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ 7:30PM | SUNDAY @ 2PM

HEWES STUDIO THEATER

LOWER LEVEL OF HEWES LIBRARY

PLAYWRIGHTS' NOTES

WITH YOU, ALWAYS

With You, Always came to be from fears of the uncertainty of life. You'll never know what each day may bring; you'll never know which day may be your last. Grief can be a difficult, scary process. This play is meant to portray that process and the closure everyone needs, but can never truly get. No matter what, you'll never truly be alone, and it's important to never forget that.

-Adyson Beebe

KATIA

I wrote *Katia* in a time of reflection and peace. The play draws heavy influence from *Marisol* and a host of other Rivera works, which helped inform my own use of magical realism. The characters all exist fully themselves, and there is no judgment for it. *Katia* is a play that asks its viewers to work through their own biases and confront their preconceived notions about what life is supposed to be or not be.

-Edrass Chávez-Alvarado

ASH ON THE HEART

Ash on the Heart started as the end of one of my other works, *The Perfect Pitcher.* When *Breaking Ground* became a reality, I started refining it to not rely on the context of my other play. *Ash on the Heart* for me is a story that can be interpreted many different ways. With the flexibility in casting and representation of relationships, it can resonate with all audience members. They can see themselves in either Sam or Jo and come to the same conclusion.

-Ray Shaul

SOMETHING FISHY THIS WAY COMES

Jennifer and I created *Something Fishy this Way Comes* in an advanced creative writing class. We approached the play by inhabiting the characters and speaking back and forth, writing down what we liked, then editing what made the cut. Thanks to so much of it being developed in real time rather than on a broad scale we got to understand our two strange scientists and their even stranger plight, and I'm very excited for an audience to have that chance too.

-Abby Zayas

MONMOUTH COLLEGE THEATRE
PRESENTS

BREAKING GROUND

A FESTIVAL OF SHORT NEW PLAYS

WRITTEN BY:
Adyson Beebe ’29,
Edrass Chávez-Alvarado ’26,
Ray Shaul ’27,
Abby Zayas ’27 & Jennifer Ruscitti ’26.

DIRECTED BY:
Ray Shaul ’27,
Abby Zayas ’27 & Quenby Wilson ’28,
Vea Vavrosky ’25,
Emma Heiser ’27.

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2026

FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ 7:30PM | SUNDAY @ 2PM

HEWES STUDIO THEATER

There will be one 10-minute intermission

Please silence all electronics
Restrooms and drinking fountains are located down the hall
Photography and recording of any kind is prohibited

THE TIME & PLACE

Various

THE CASTS

With You, Always

DYLAN	Zairah Abbott
MAX	Calista Lythgoe*
FUNERAL GUEST	Lorelei Weidman

Katia

KATIA	Natalia Godina
PRISON GUARD 1	Nyx King
PRISON GUARD 2	Ryan Ullrich*
FIGURE OF LIGHT	Ivy Johnson*

Ash on the Heart - Fri & Sun

SAM	River Nevel
JO	Lorenzo Ramirez

Ash on the Heart - Sat

SAM	Aiden Earley
JO	Lorelei Weidman

Something Fishy This Way Comes

GARDENER	Maylee Huffman
DARWIN	Rowan Love

* Denotes a Member of Alpha Psi Omega (Theatre Honor Society)

THE CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTORS	Emma Heiser*, Ray Shaul*, Vea Vavrosky ’25, Quenby Wilson*, Abby Zayas
PLAYWRIGHTS	Adyson Beebe, Edrass Chávez-Alvarado*, Jennifer Ruscitti, Ray Shaul, Abby Zayas
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Vanessa Campagna
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Ray Shaul
STAGE MANAGER	Dante Sardelli*
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Maya Blackmon
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Vanessa Campagna
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Ryan Ullrich*
SCENIC DESIGNER	Vanessa Campagna
LIGHTING DESIGNER	Vanessa Campagna
LIGHTING ENGINEER	Payton Lamb*
LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR	Ruby Dickerson
SOUND DESIGNER	Abby Zayas
SOUND ENGINEER	Edrass Chávez-Alvarado
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR	George Hoelzel
COSTUME DESIGNER	Vanessa Campagna
COSTUME ASSISTANTS	Directors
SCENIC & COSTUME LAB MANAGER	Vanessa Campagna
PROPS DESIGNERS	Vanessa Campagna & Ryan Ullrich
HOUSE & BOX OFFICE MANAGER	Ray Shaul
POSTER AND PROGRAM DESIGNER	Ray Shaul
LOGO DESIGNER	Grace Cornelius ‘24
BUILD CREW	Acen Akers, Maya Blackmon, Vanessa Campagna Matthew Bright, Ryker Grauer, Maylee Huffman, Ashley Juerjens,Nyx King, Addison Luna, Isabel Lynch, Robert Miller. K Pohlman, Suzanne Reimolds, Madison Springer, Braden Sullivan, Adam Waite, Quenby Wilson.
RUN CREW	Acen Akers, Maya Blackmon, Ryker Grauer, Nyx King, Madison Springer, Braden Sullivan, Quenby Wilson.

SPECIAL THANKS

President Patricia Draves and Dr. Jeff Draves
Dean Mark Willhardt
Peter Rule
Alpha Psi Omega
Todd Quick

PLAYWRIGHT & DIRECTOR BIOS



ADYSON BEEBE (Playwright - *With You, Always*) is a freshman Theatre Education major. Adyson is involved in ASAP. Special thanks to her parents and her wonderful boyfriend for believing in and supporting her, and huge thanks to Dr. V for allowing her to write a play for this festival.



EDRASS CHÁVEZ-ALVARADO (Playwright - *Katia*) is a senior Theatre and Music major. Edrass is involved in Alpha Psi Omega, Residence Life, Chorale and Chamber Choir, and Wind Ensemble. He would like to thank his family for their continued support of my art and my dreams.



QUENBY WILSON (Director - *Katia*) is a sophomore Theatre & Business Administration major. Other invovlements on campus include Chorale, Alpha Xi Delta, and Alpha Psi Omega. Quenby would like to thank Abby Zayas who I've had a great time working with as co-director.



RAY SHAUL (Playwright - *Ash on the Heart,* Director - *With You, Always*) is a junior Theatre major with a Musical Theatre concentration with Strategic Communications and Music minors. Outside of theatre, they work at Einstein's on campus and are involved in Chorale, Concert Choir, and Alpha Psi Omega. They would like to thank their family, friends, and their partner, Vea, for all their support. They would also like to thank Ryan Bowman and Dr. V for their mentorship in creating *Ash on the Heart.* Website: rayshaul.wixsite.com/ray-shaul



VEA VAVROSKY (Director - *Ash on the Heart*) is a 2025 alum from Monmouth College. Now they teach K-4 General Music at Mable Woolsey Elementary in Knoxville and are the choir director at United Methodist Church in Monmouth. While they are an alum, they are still involved on campus in Concert Choir. Vea would like to thank Dr. V for giving them this opportunity and Ray Shaul for always being supportive



ABBY ZAYAS (Playwright - *Something Fishy This Way Comes,* Director - *Katia*) is a junior English & History major and Theatre minor. Abby is involved in Chorale, Chamber Choir, and honor societies, Alpha Psi Omega and Sigma Tau Delta. Abby is also an MJUR Editor, Writing Center Tutor, and a Scots Ambassador. Abby would like to thank their family for always supporting what they do, their friends for how often they get to make art together, our professors for providing a place to do so, and their boyfriend Ivy for everything he does.



JENNIFER RUSCITTI (Playwright - *Something Fishy This Way Comes*) is a senior Classics & English major with Latin & Greek minors. Jennifer is apart of Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Lambda Delta, Eta Sigma Phi, Sigma Tau Delta, and is a Writing Tutor and Classics Student Worker. Jennifer would like to give a special thanks to her co-author, Abby Zayas for being so wonderful to write with and to their Spring '25 ENGL-310 class, where it all began.



EMMA HEISER (Director - *Something Fishy This Way Comes*) is a junior Secondary English Education major and a Theatre minor. Emma is involved in Chorale & Chamber Choir and TARTANS. Emma would like to thank Professor Todd Quick and Dr. Vanessa Campagna for giving her the opportunity to expose herself to the wonderful world of directing. She would like to thank her friends and family for their support through this process as well.

ACTOR HEADSHOTS



ZAIRAH ABBOTT
AS DYLAN



CALISTA LYTHGOE
AS MAX



LORELEI WEIDMAN
AS FUNERAL GUEST



NATALIA GODINA
AS KATIA



NYX KING
AS PRISON GUARD 1



RYAN ULLRICH
AS PRISON GUARD 2



IVY JOHNSON
AS FIGURE OF LIGHT



RIVER NEVEL
AS SAM



LORENZO RAMIREZ
AS JO



AIDEN EARLEY
AS SAM



LORELEI WEIDMAN
AS JO



MAYLEE HUFFMAN
AS GARDENER



ROWAN LOVE
AS DARWIN

Coming Soon



THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

APRIL 10-12, 2026