MONMOUTH COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

CHELSEA MARCANTEL'S

AIRNESS



DIRECTED BY THEA 377 STUDENTS

ZAIRAH ABBOTT

ESSENCE BROWN

AIDEN EARLEY

RAY SHAUL

QUENBY WILSON

NOVEMBER 20-22, 2026

FRIDAY & SATURDAY @ 7:30PM | SUNDAY @ 2:00PM

HEWES STUDIO THEATER | LOWER LEVEL HEWES LIBRARY

AIRNESS is presented by arrrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Dramatists Play Service.

DRAMATURG'S NOTE

Quenby Wilson
with guidance from Dr. Vanessa Campagna

Who knew that air guitar could be such a compelling competitive sport? Finland did!

The first Air Guitar World Championship was founded by Finnish Musician, Jukka Takalo, and held in Oulu, Finland, during the 1996 Oulu Music Video Festival. While originally conceived of as a funny "side event" for the Festival, the performances were popular and the art of air guitar quickly grew around the world. Now, air guitar has its own national competitions in many countries, and the world championship continues to be held in its home of Oulu.

It wasn't until 2003 that the United States (U.S.) held its first national air guitar competition, which was hosted in New York City. The inaugural competition's winner, "C-Diddy," went on to become the first American competitor on the world stage–and he won! C-Diddy's victory established the U.S. as an important contender in air guitar worldwide.

Importantly, the goal of the Air Guitar World Championships has always been bigger than the art of air guitar itself. The global art aims to promote peace across the world. As Pia Alatorvinen, the Executive Director of the Oulu August Festivals, has said: "The idea is, if everyone in the world played air guitar, no one would pick up a gun." The World Championship communicates this same idea: "Wars will end, climate change will stop and all other bad things will vanish when all of the people in the world play the air guitar." This production understands that Marcantel's Airness leans into the theme of peace by telling the story of Nina O'Neal, a woman who is facing heartbreak and lingering anger, and loneliness from a lack of community. Her journey is about learning to embrace a new art and finding a community of air guitar enthusiasts who become "her people." She also finds her wild side, her free side, her empowered side, her peaceful side, her happy side, herself.

Finally, air guitar is a democratic art. After all, you don't need an actual instrument to rock out to your favorite song, and you don't need technical training to lose yourself in the music. In that spirit, we invite all audience members to play air guitar at the end of the performance in order to continue being in community with us … and to promote peace and save the world, too.

MONMOUTH COLLEGE THEATRE PRESENTS

AIRNESS

By Chelsea Marcantel
Directed by THEA 377 Students
Advised by Dr. Vanessa Campagna

November 20th-22nd, 2026
Friday & Saturday @ 7:30pm | Sunday @ 2pm
Hewes Studio Theater

Please silence all cell phones and distracting devices.
Restrooms and water fountains are located in the lobby.
Photography and recording of any kind are prohibited.

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www.concordtheatricals.com

Use the QR Code
to see the Directors' Notes

THE TIME

Early 2010s

THE PLACE

Various Bars across the US

THE CAST

NINA "THE NINA" O'NEAL	Jazmine Glover
ASTRID "CANNIBAL QUEEN" ANDERSON	Nyx King*
DAVID "D VICIOUS" COOPER	Ivy Johnson*
ED "SHREDDY EDDY" LEARY	Nathan Robinson
GABE "GOLDEN THUNDER" PARTRIDGE	Korina Sears
MARK "FACEBENDER" LENDER	Jackson Wagy
ANNOUNCER	Jack Snyder
SPRITE EXEC & HOODED FIGURE	Finley Kane

THE CREATIVE TEAM

DIRECTORS	Zairah Abbott*, Essence Brown, Aiden Earley, Ray Shaul*, Quenby Wilson*.
TECHNICAL DIRECTORS	Dr. Vanessa Campagna & Prof. Todd Quick
STAGE MANAGER	Kay Roberts
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	Anthony DiFiglia, Maylee Huffman*, Ella Searle, Abby Van Zee, Lorelei Weidman.
SCENIC DESIGN	Vanessa Campagna & Directors

** denotes membership of Alpha Psi Omega (Theatre Honor Society)*

THE CREATIVE TEAM (cont.)

SCENIC PAINTING	Zairah Abbott, Vanessa Campagna, Rowan Love, & Kay Roberts.
SOUND DESIGN	Abby Zayas*
SOUND ASSISTANT	Dylan Marr
SOUND OPERATOR	Ella Searle
LIGHTING DESIGN	Payton Lamb*
LIGHTING ASSISTANT	Anthony DiFiglia, Emma Heiser*, Elliot Ajayi.
LIGHTING OPERATOR	Anthony DiFiglia
COSTUME DESIGN	Vanessa Campagna, Directors, Nyx King, Korina Sears, Vea Vavrosky '25.
BUILD CREW	Delaney Albarran, Essence Brown, Vanessa Campagna, Brendyn Fuchs, Mason Hanvey, Maddie Hepner, Brenna Jennings, Krysta Pahr, Ella Searle, Blake Sierens, Keagan Swank, Alatha Warren, Brady Young, Abby Zayas.

PLAYWRIGHT BIO

CHELSEA MARCANTEL is an LA-based writer, director and collaborator. Reared by Cajuns in southwest Louisiana, Chelsea has lived and made theatre among the peoples of the Midwest, Appalachia, the Mid-Atlantic and now the West Coast. She completed a Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Fellowship at The Juilliard School and is a recipient of the Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theater, given by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Her plays and musicals, which have been produced across the US and Canada, include: *Airness, Everything is Wonderful, Tiny Houses, Ladyish, The Monster and Citizen Detective*. As a writer, Chelsea is extremely interested in humans as small-group primates and what happens when the rules and value systems of our chosen groups cease to serve us. She reads a lot of books, watches a lot of documentaries, and listens to a lot of podcasts. Chelsea is an avid self-producer, an enthusiastic member of The Writers Guild of America and The Dramatists Guild, and an alumna of the activist collective The Kilroys.

CAST, DIRECTORS, & STAGE MANAGEMENT



JAZMINE GLOVER (Nina) is a freshman Political Science & Theatre major and Communications minor from Country Club Hills, IL. "My favorite thing about Nina is the freedom she gets to release on stage as she progresses through performances." Jazmine has been seen in *Macbeth* as Angus.



NYX KING (Cannibal Queen) is a sophomore Theatre & Classics majors and Art minor from Rock Island, IL. Nyx is involved in Chamber Choir, Chorale, and as Treasurer for Alpha Psi Omega. Nyx's favorite role with MC Theatre was recently in *Macbeth* as First Witch. Other productions Nyx has been in include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Breaking Ground, Our Town,* and *Marisol.*



IVY JOHNSON (D Vicious) is a senior Environmental Studies and Sustainability major and Theatre minor from Galesburg, IL. Ivy is involved in Alpha Psi Omega and ACS. In all the productions Ivy has been apart of, their favorite was back in their freshman year being Assistant Technical Director for *The Language Archive* (fun fact: the inaugural production of the Hewes Studio Theater). Other productions Ivy has been involved in include *The 25th Putnam County Spelling Bee, Breaking Ground, Our Town,* and *Marisol.*



NATHAN ROBINSON (Shreddy Eddy) is a senior Psychology major from Galva, IL. Nathan is involved in Sigma Phi Epsilon, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Marching Band, and Chorale. This is Nathan first production with MC Theatre and he's enjoying how "comical" Shreddy is.



KORINA SEARS (Golden Thunder) is a freshman Theatre major and Art minor from Burlington, IA. "Golden Thunder is a role I'm so grateful to be playing because I absolutely love what he stands for." Korina was most recently in *Macbeth* as Malcolm.



JACKSON WAGY (Facebender) is a freshman Social Science Education major from Monmouth, IL. Jackson is involved in Chorale, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and a work study student for the Hewes Library. Jackson says, "I really like testing the range of the type of character I can be; Facebender is a huge test of my range, and he's fun and eloquent!" Jackson was recently in *Macbeth* as Menteith, and way back in 2019 in *The Child's Christmas in Wales*.



JACK SNYDER (Announcer) is a freshman Strategic Communications & Theatre major from Bartonville, IL. Jack is a work study students at Hewes Library, a DJ on WPFS Radio, and a member of Stockdale Fellows. "While this is only my second show at Monmouth, my favorite role is definitely the Announcer, since it's a blank-canvas I can put my own charm into!" Recently, Jack was seen as the 2nd Messenger/Servant in *Macbeth*.

CAST, DIRECTORS, & STAGE MANAGEMENT



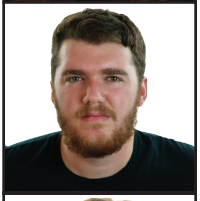
FINLEY KANE (Sprite Exect. & Hooded Figure) is a junior Psychology & Theatre major from Galesburg, IL. Finley is a member of Alpha Xi Delta. Finley's favorite role in Monmouth Theatre was her most recent role in *Macbeth* as the Captain.



ZAIRAH ABBOTT (Director) is a sophomore Theatre major and English minor from Oquawka, IL. Zairah is involved in Alpha Psi Omega and Chorale. Zairah's favorite role was in *Breaking Ground* as Dylan in *With You, Always*. Other productions include *Macbeth, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,* and *Our Town*



ESSENCE BROWN (Director) is a junior Theatre major with Musical Theatre concentration. Essence is a transfer but already involved in so much including: Co-Captain for Color Guard, Chorale, TA for Acting I, and was a part of the SOFIA program during the summer. Essence last role in MC Theatre was as Caithness in *Macbeth*, and also with Jackson in *A Child's Christmas in Wales.*



AIDEN EARLEY (Director) is a senior Theatre Major and Psychology minor from Annawan, IL. Aiden is involved in Chorale, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Marching Band. Aiden's favorite role was in the last student-directed production of *Love/Sick* as Jake. Other productions include *Macbeth, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Breaking Ground,* and *Our Town.*



RAY SHAUL (Director) is a senior Theatre major with Musical Theatre & Management concentrations and Strategic Communications minor from Bourbonnais, IL. Ray is involved in Alpha Psi Omega as Vice President, Chorale, works at Einsteins, and is a choir scholar at Faith United Presbyterian. Ray has been in many roles in Monmouth Theatre including most recently being the Stage Manager for *Macbeth*, Olive Ostrovsky in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, and a playwright & director for *Breaking Ground.*



QUENBY WILSON (Director) is a junior Marketing and Theatre major from Collinsville, IL. Quenby is invovled in Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Psi Omega, Residence Life, and Chorale. Quenby was most recently in *Macbeth* as Ross. Other productions include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Breaking Ground, Our Town, Cinderella, Love/Sick,* and *Pride & Prejudice.*



KAY ROBERTS (Stage Manager) is a junior English Education major with endorsements in Theatre & Special Education from Lomax, IL. Kay is in Color Guard and was most recently an ASM on *Macbeth.*

CAST, DIRECTORS, & STAGE MANAGEMENT



ANTHONY DIFIGLIA (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman Theatre major from Ocean Township, NJ. Anthony is involved in Stockdale Fellows, Phi Delta Theta, Pipe Band, and SOFIA over the summer. Anthony was previously an ASM on Macbeth.



MAYLEE HUFFMAN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a sophomore Music & Theatre major from Farmington, IL. Maylee is involved in Wind Ensemble, Chorale, Marching Band, Pep Band, and Alpha Psi Omega. Maylee's favorite role was in *Breaking Ground* as Gardener in *Something Fishy This Way Comes.* Other productions include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Our Town,* and *Marisol*



ELLA SEARLE (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman Social Science Education with a Political Science concentration and a Theatre endorsement from Poplar Grove, IL. Ella works for the Sports Information Department here at Monmouth and was invovled in the SOFIA program over the summer. Ella is enjoying being an ASM on *Airness*. Most recently, Ella was in *Macbeth* as 1st Messenger



ABBY VAN ZEE (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman Chemistry major from Clinton, IL. Abby is involved in Alpha Xi Delta, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, & Marching Band. Abby was most recently seen in *Macbeth* as Donalbain.



LORELEI WEIDMAN (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman Art major from Monmouth, IL. Lorelei is, of course, involved in Theatre and the Art program. "This is my first time being a part of the crew for a show instead of acting, and it's been really fun to get to see the other side of the work that goes into creating a show." Other productions Lorelei has been apart of include *Macbeth, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Breaking Ground, Cinderella,* and *Love/Sick.*

SPECIAL THANKS

President Patricia Draves & Dr. Jeff Draves

Dean Mark Willhardt

Dr. Steve Jackson

The EastSide Experience