For Immediate Release

April 22, 2020

Kennedy Theatre Announces 57th Season

UHM Department of Theatre + Dance and Kennedy Theatre present the 2020/21 Production Season

Mainstage Season

The Mainstage Season opens with Eddie Wen’ Go: the Story of the Upside-Down Canoe, a Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) production. In this play adaptation of the book, the story of Eddie Aikau’s heroism is told through the eyes of ocean creatures who witnessed his bravery and sacrifice. In November 2020, the hit rock-musical Spring Awakening storms the mainstage to express coming of age frustrations, the angst of adolescence, and awakening sexuality. Breath, a contemporary dance concert featuring new original choreography and unique artistic creations takes the stage in January. Involving a wide range of collaborating choreographers, artists, designers, and multimedia experts, Breath expands dance expression through innovation and collaboration. The Mainstage Season finale is a spectacular late spring performance, The Maiden Benten and the Bandits of the White Waves, a traditional Japanese Kabuki production prepared under the guidance of master Kabuki practitioners.

Primetime Series

The Primetime Series features the culminating thesis works of MFA directors, dancers, choreographers and playwrights, and BFA dance candidates on the eve of graduation as well as experimental or chamber works directed by faculty. This year’s Primetime Series opens with a Fall Footholds dance concert in October. This production is followed in December by I’m Lot Lane (a solo effort) a new play about the rise of American politics in an occupied Hawaiian Kingdom. A brand-new translation and modern adaptation of the classic fairytale, Ondine, will debut in February. The Primetime Series finale is the second of our Footholds dance concerts and opens March 31.
**LATE NIGHT SERIES**

Late Night Theatre is a student-run organization hosted by UHM’s Department of Theatre + Dance. Their mission is to present experimental and quirky work not often seen in Honolulu. Budgets and technical elements are kept minimal in order to focus on students’ acting and directing skills. Shows are presented at a student-friendly late-night hour.

**ABOUT THE COVID-19 UNCERTAINTY**

Kennedy Theatre continues to keep the best interests of our students, patrons, colleagues, and the greater community in the forefront of our plans as we navigate the changing tides of the coronavirus pandemic. We are simultaneously planning for the best-case scenario while also preparing contingency plans in the event of extended social distancing recommendations. Our production season is driven by our mission to create opportunities for artistic growth by providing professional-quality production experiences and opportunities for our students. We will continue to do everything possible to be ready to provide these services when prudent and after group gathering restrictions have been lifted.

*Kennedy Theatre program and schedule are subject to change.*

**MAINSTAGE SEASON – ON THE KENNEDY THEATRE MAINSTAGE**

**Eddie Wen’ Go**

*The Story of the Upside-Down Canoe*

*A Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) tribute to Eddie Aikau*

Adapted from *Eddie Wen’ Go: The Story of the Upside-Down Canoe* by Marion Lyman-Mersereau

Directed by Mark Branner

**September 19 –27, 2020**

This imaginative TYA production incorporates giant puppetry, dance, ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, pidgin, and hula to tell the story of Eddie Aikau’s act of sacrifice through the eyes of sea creatures who watched from underneath the upside-down canoe. Celebrating the story of one local hero who dared to dream big and put the lives of others before his own, this production shares Aikau’s legacy of hope and service to others. Suitable for the whole family.

Pre-Show Chats: Saturdays, September 19 & 26 at 6:30pm

**School Shows for Students September 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 25. Contact ktyouth@hawaii.edu for details.**
The Tony and Grammy award-winning musical *Spring Awakening* exploding with the frustrations and joys of a group of teenagers as they move from repression and ignorance to sexual curiosity and exploration. Rebellious rock anthems and tender ballads reflect the pain and excitement that comes with figuring out who you are and what you want. Brashly tackling subject matter that is both timely and relevant, the show balances the humorous and the solemn, the delicate and the abrasive, to create a haunting and exhilarating piece of musical theatre. Contains sexual themes, mature content, and strong language. Parental discretion is advised.

**Throwback Saturday: November 14, 2020**
Pre-Show Chats: Saturdays, November 14 & 21 at 6:30pm

*Breath*

Directed by Kara Jhalak Miller

**January 29 – February 7, 2021**

*Breath* is a contemporary dance concert featuring new original choreography and designs by visionary UHM Dance faculty along with renowned international guest artists. Audiences will be transported by luminous choreography and unique artistic creations from a wide range of collaborating artists including composers, musicians, animators, cinematographers, interactive media creators, and much more. Breathe into the immersive process of creative imagination, energy, and impulse with an array of dance that aims to be transformative and uplifting.

**Throwback Saturday: January 30, 2021**
Pre-Show Chats: Saturdays, January 30 & February 6 at 6:30pm

*The Maiden Benten and the Bandits of the White Waves*

A traditional Japanese Kabuki, performed in English!
Written by Kawatake Mokuami
Directed by Julie Iezzi

Guest Master Artists: Ichikawa Monnosuke VIII, Tobaya San’emon, Kashiwa Senjirō

April 23 – May 2, 2021

This Kabuki classic, commonly known by the title Benten Kozō, highlights a romanticized group of bandits. The main story focuses on Benten Kozō, as he and his partners attempt to extort money from a wealthy dry goods store, are completely exposed in the process, discover long lost parents, and eventually end up fleeing to the bank of the Inase River. In this stunningly beautiful finale scene, the five-member gang lines up amidst the audience on the hanamichi, waxing poetically in melodious meter. A version of this play, translated and directed by Earle Ernst, was staged for the opening of the Kennedy Theatre in 1963. This new translation brings back a Hawai‘i favorite, and honors those community members whose expertise and dedication built and sustained the nearly 100-year tradition of Hawai‘i kabuki.

Throwback Saturday: April 24, 2020
Pre-Show Chats: Saturdays, April 24 & May 1 at 6:30pm

MAINSTAGE SEASON - TICKET PRICES

Advance SuperSaver Tickets will be on sale July 1 through August 28, 2020: $16

Regularly Priced Tickets go on sale September 1, 2020.

Spring Awakenings, Breath and Benten:

$8 UHM Student with current UHM ID
$15 Non-UHM Student/Youth
$20 UHAA Member with card
$22 UH Faculty/Staff, Military, Senior
$25 Regular (Adult)

Special Eddie Wen’ Go prices:

$8 UHM Student with current UHM ID
$10 Youth (2-17 years old)
$15 Non-UHM Student
$16 UHAA member with card
$18 UH Faculty/Staff, Military, Senior
$20 Regular (Adult)

The first Saturday performance of *Spring Awakening*, *Breath*, and *Benten* is a “Throwback Saturday” special featuring flashback prices from the good ol’ days:

- $5 UHM Student with current UHM ID
- $10 Other Discount Groups
- $15 Regular (Adult)

Advance Supersaver Tickets
Audience members can save substantially on tickets to Kennedy Mainstage Season shows by buying early. Advance Supersaver Tickets will be on **sale July 1 until August 28, 2020**. More information at: manoa.hawaii.edu/liveonstage/subscribe.

Standard-Priced Tickets
Regularly-priced tickets to all Mainstage and Primetime productions will go on sale beginning September 1 and may be purchased online at www.etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at official outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre Box Office during sale periods only.

**PRIMETIME SERIES – IN THE EARLE ERNST LAB THEATRE**

**Fall Footholds Dance Concert**
Directed by Betsy Fisher
**October 14-18, 2020**

This biannual dance concert showcases the culmination of years of study and sweat. It features exemplary undergraduate and graduate student choreography as well as BFA senior projects and MFA thesis work. Post-Show Rap (Q&A) follows Friday, October 16 performance.

**I’m Lot Lane (a solo effort)**
By MFA Directing Candidate Keola Simpson
**December 2-6, 2020**
Following the Uprising of 1895’s final battle against the Republic of Hawaii, the last remaining royalist insurgent, Lot Lane, turned himself into government forces by simply walking in and announcing “I’m Lot Lane.” According to writer/director Simpson, "I’m Lot Lane (a solo effort) is a deconstruction of the American and Hawaiian theatres, examining our dependency on propaganda, hierarchy, and fear of truth on our stages. It is examined by a forgotten Lot Lane himself."

Post-Show Rap (Q&A) follows Friday, December 4 performance.

**Ondine**

Directed by MFA Directing Candidate Thea Wigglesworth

Translated and Adapted from *Ondine* by Jean Giraudoux

**February 24-28, 2021**

“What does it mean to be human?” is the question posed to the audience with *Ondine*, a classic French play by Jean Giraudoux, newly translated and adapted by MFA candidate Thea Wigglesworth. It brings triumph and sacrifice to the stage while allowing the audience to be swept up by the drama that unfolds when the desires of humans and nature collide. An intersection of humor and heartbreak, this inventive retelling of a classic German fairytale invites patrons to reflect on the parables of the past as presented through a 21st century humanist gaze.

Post-Show Rap (Q&A) follows Friday, February 26 performance.

**Spring Footholds Dance Concert**

Directed by Peiling Kao

**March 31 – April 3, 2021**

This biannual dance concert showcases the culmination of years of study and sweat. It features exemplary undergraduate and graduate student choreography as well as BFA senior projects and MFA thesis work.

Post-Show Rap (Q&A) follows Friday, April 2 performance.

**PRIMETIME SERIES - TICKET PRICES**

$8 UHM Student with current UHM ID

$13 Non-UHM Student/Youth
I'm Leaving You My Feet

By Alex Dekker
Directed by Thea Wigglesworth
September 19-26, 2020

*I’m Leaving You My Feet* presents an expressionistic world of grief, guilt, catharsis, and eventual acceptance as protagonist Jules struggles to comprehend an event from her past. As one brief moment of connection for Jules plays out repeatedly, the stages of her emotional journey suddenly transform this static moment into one of betrayal, or personal failure, or determined tragedy. It invites the audience to sit with these universal experiences – grief, loss, and personal turmoil – and in doing so, to reflect on how much present emotional context affects memories of painful or tragic events.

When We Were Young

By Kimberlee Stone
Directed by Thea Wigglesworth
November 14-21, 2020

Two girls, CVS, and a whole mess of trouble. Kayli and Diana spend their days riding skateboards, working at CVS, and just trying to get through life, but as Diana slides back into dealing drugs, things get a lot more complicated than either of them could have anticipated.

Late Night Series - Ticket Prices

Tickets are on sale at the Box Office starting one hour before curtain

$5 UHM Student
$8 Discount Groups (Military, Senior, UH Faculty/Staff, Students)
$10 Regular (Adult)

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