BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE OF DANCE PRESENTS

THEATRE MAINSTAGE

# APPROPRIATE

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins

Directed by Professor Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson

Friday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. and

Monday Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Bucknell

## **APPROPRIATE**

Stage Management by Julia Tokish '22
Scene Design by F. Elaine Williams
Costume Design by Jennifer Lippert
Light Design by Heath J. Hansum
Sound Design by Heath J. Hansum
Assistant Directors Nabeel Jan'23 and Joe Fazio '22
Fight Choreographer/Dialect Coach Samantha J Norton
Associate Sound Designer Ian Evans
Assistant Lighting Designer Gabe Gross '23

### **CAST**

Toni	Bethany Fitch '23
Rhys	Kieran Calderwood '24
Bo	Jon Riker '22
Rachael	Jillian Flynn '22
Cassidy	Haley Dickinson '23
Ainsley	Yasmine Adam '24
Franz	Peter Cholnoky '22
River	
Real Estate Agent	Quentin "Q" Andrews '24
Toni (Understudy)	Sabrina Debler '22
Rhys (Understudy)	Griffin Miller '24
Bo/Franz (Understudy)	Ryan Bremer '22
Rachael/River (Understudy)	Katherine Leschner '23
Cassidy (Understudy)	Grace Woodhouse '25

### **PRODUCTION STAFF**

Assistant Stage Manager	Yasmine Adam '24, Grace Woodhouse '25
Master Electrician	Matt Nowell '23
Props Master	Sophie McQuaide '24
Makeup and Hair Design	Tallulah Samburg '22
Wardrobe	Skyler McGee '22
Captioning Technician	Maggie McDonald '25
Lightboard Operator	Riley Steere '24
Sound Board Operator	Eliza Greenberg '25
Costume Studio Manager	Pam Miller
Costume TAs	Abby Strayer '22, Haley Quall '24, Lindsey
	Kaufman '24, Sarah Preston '25, Nellie Smith '24
Scenery and Lighting Production Crew	Georgia Corbett '24, Azhani Duncan-Reese '23,
	Kyle Fontes '25, Eliza Greenberg '25, Maggie
	Hunter '24, Alice Jackins '25, Katherine Leschner
	'23, Angela Meckley '25, Evelyn Pierce '25, Julia
	Tokish '22, Nicole Wilson '25. Matt Nowell '23,
	Riley Steere '24.
Publicity	Jeniah Martin '22, Caroline Tattersfield '22, Miki
	Du Bois '22, Ryan Bremer '22 , James Howe '23,
	Clea Ramos '25, Tristan An '25

### **DIRECTOR'S NOTE**

The Social Activist Valarie Kaur, who happens to be coming to Bucknell as the keynote speaker during the university's 2022 MLK week events, once famously stated in her renowned 2017 ted talk that revolution happens only when...

"We see the ones who hurt us not as monsters, but as people who themselves are wounded, who themselves feel threatened, who don't know what else to do with their insecurity but to hurt us, to pull the trigger, or cast the vote, or pass the policy aimed at us. Because if some of us begin to wonder about them, even listen to their stories, we learn that participation in oppression comes at a cost. It cuts them off from their own capacity to love."

Playwright Branden Jacob-Jenkins play Appropriate is fundamentally about a deeply dysfunctional family whose central pathology is the continued participation in systems of oppression that cut them off from their own capacity to love each other. The lie at the heart of their family, the lie that their father was essentially a man who did not hurt others, eats away at each of them over time, infecting their abilities to take responsibility for their own actions as well as making them blind to the impacts they have on others. Seeing these characters as human, as deeply flawed people, does not abdicate them from their failings but rather asks us examine more deeply our own failings, and the failings of the families, of communities and of the loved ones that surround us. It asks that we each examine our own American family pathologies, and root out the lies that run deeply though our own cultures, professions and ancestries. The Lafayette family sin is not their history. Their sin is their failure to reckon with their history truthfully. My wonderfully astute colleague cfrancis blackchild calls Branden Jacobs-Jenkins a very 'trusting' playwright. She said, 'it's because he trusts that the audience will 'get' that these characters aren't racists because they are terrible people but that they are terrible people because they are racist.' The difference being, that this is all a choice they are making, to be terrible to one another when the alternative is to admit that their ancestors were terrible to Black people. As my excellent fellow director Jaye Austin Williams observes, "The danger with Appropriate is that the audience, equipped with a collective bogeyman (The Lafayette family) may choose to render themselves distinct (like the nation did from Derek Chauvin) rather than see a mirror." The mirror that Dr. Williams refers to, reflects the truth of our history as a nation. That although many of us may come from a legacy of love, we also come from a legacy of hate. The legacy we perpetuate is not just the one we acknowledge, it's also the one we ignore, the one we suppress. The one that waits, that grows in power like a ghost, that eventually rises like a swarm of cicadas from the ground. Just like the truth, cicadas do not remain buried. And when they emerge, they always rise to the surface with a scream. 10 years after this play opened, the cicadas are back. The world is screaming. In 2021, the time for the truth is now.

> Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson Appropriate Director Bucknell University 2021

#### THE DIRECTOR WISHES TO THANK:

Special thanks to our faculty designers, production staff, and their student assistants/student board operators. These gifted individuals dedicated their valuable time and energy to this very challenging two-show event in order to bring something new and extraordinary to Bucknell. As we directors and performers pivoted weekly to overcome the many difficulties of rehearsal and performance during a COVID semester, our design colleagues did twice as much working both shows simultaneously. We are honored to have worked on this project with such wonderful and generous collaborators.

### Appropriate setting:

The living room of a former plantation home in Southeast Arkansas, Summer 2011

Prologue
Decades of nothing
but the sound of
Cicadas, until...

Act 1 Sc 1 The middle of the night

Act 1 Sc 2
The next Morning

Act 1 Sc 3 Later that day

Act 2
That night

Act 3 Sc 1
Early the next
morning; the day
of the Estate Sale/
Auction

Act 3 Sc 2 Later that morning

Act 3 Sc 3
Another several
decades of nothing
but the sound of
Cicadas until...

### **DIRECTOR**

Anjalee Deshpande Hutchinson teaches acting, directing and devising in the Theatre Department at Bucknell University where in 2019 she received the Bucknell Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence. Anjalee, a graduate of the MFA directing program at Northwestern University, studied under Robert Falls of the Goodman Theatre. Before and after graduate school, Ms. Deshpande freelanced as an actor /director in New York City, Chicago, London and Mumbai. Anjalee has received devising training through The Tectonic Theatre Project, is an accredited teacher of the Chekhov Technique through The National Michael Chekhov Association and is an accredited teacher of the Sanford Meisner Technique through the True Acting Institute. Anjalee's recent book; Michael Chekhov and Sanford Meisner; Collisions and Convergence in Actor Training, is available through Routledge Publishing, who also published her first book, Acting Exercises for Non-Traditional Performance: Michael Chekhov Reimagined. Anjalee is also a Faculty Fellow with Bucknell University's Provost's Office for Equity and Inclusive Excellence.

### **CAST & CREW BIOGRAPHIES**

**Yasmine Adam '24** (Assistant Stage Manager and Ainsley) - Bucknell Theatre and Dance: *As you Like It* (Martext), *Love/Sick* (Louise), *Cocktails: The DMV One* (Woman)

**Quentin "Q" Andrews '24** (Real Estate Agent) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Assistant Director-Fight Captain)

**Ryan Bremer '22** (Bo/Franz u.s) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: As You Like It (William); You're Welcome for Keeping this Short (Hutch)

**Kieran Calderwood '24** (Rhys) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Love Sick (Mark), Acting III, Bliss (Apollo's understudy), Hunter Science Symphony Orchestra (First Chair), Arts First Performance, Bucknell Track & Field

**Peter Cholnoky '22** (Franz) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Cabaret (Max/Sailor 1), The Orchid (Ryan). The Darrow School Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing (Don Jon), Windex Thoughts (Writer/Director), Polar Opposites (Writer/Director). Bucknell Dungeons & Dragons: Hoard of the Dragon Queen (Ratoogaha/Haboog), The Rise of Tiamat (Haboog/Dr. Floopownious Yagaway), The Lost Mines of Phandelver (Director), Baldur's Gate: Descent into Avernus (Director), The Curse of Strahd (Director).

**Haley Dickinson '23** (Cassidy) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *The Revolutionists* (Marie Antoinette Understudy), *Dancing in the Afternoon* (Melissa), *Love and Information* (Ensemble).

**Sydney Dickinson '22** (River) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: As You Like It (Rosalind); The Wolves (#00); Unheard/ Unspoken (Karissa); Cabaret (Rosie); Blue Stockings (U/S Carolyn, Lloyd, Holmes, Edward); Women and Wallace (Lily); Watermelon Boats (Kate). Century High School: Seussical The Musical (Gertrude); Fall of the House of Usher (Lucy); Sweeney Todd (Johanna).

Sabrina Debler '22 (Toni Understudy) Bucknell Theater and Dance Department: Antigone (Chorus); Blue Stockings (Understudy to Maeve, Billy, Mrs. Linley); Cabaret (Understudy to Fräulein Schneider); I Am Here (Cast Member); As You Like It (Assistant Stage Manager). Friends Seminary Theatre Department: Romeo and Juliet (Capulet Girl), All Shook Up (Ensemble); Midsummer Night's Dream (Peaseblossom); Into the Woods (Stepmother); Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (Harriet Shelley); Here Be Dragons (Council). Warner Bros: Hello Herman, 2012 (Jennifer); Alchemy: The Bandit Hound, 2016 (Katie); Gravitas Ventures/Archstone Distribution: Bad Impulse, 2020 (Grace).

Joe Fazio '22 (Student Director) Bucknell Theatre and Dance.

Bethany Fitch '23 (Toni) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: As You Like It (LeBeau) Love and Information (Ensemble), Dancing in the Afternoon (Jill), The Revolutionists (Olympe Understudy), Truth, Beauty, Authenticity (Ensemble). Westminster High School: Curtains (Lead Dancer), 12 Angry Men (Foreman), Game of Tiaras (Cinderella), Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella (Madame), See How They Run (Miss Skillon), All Out (Elaine), Catch Me if You Can (Carol Strong), The Crucible (Abigail Williams), Mamma Mia! (Rosie), Julius Caesar (Casca). Maryland Ensemble Theatre: A Christmas Carol (Junior Ensemble).

Jillian Flynn '22 (Rachael) Bucknell Theatre and Dance Department: As You Like It (Audrey); Cabaret (Fraulein Kost); Unheard/Unspoken (Alice); Blue Stockings (Celia); Women and Wallace (Nina). Random Farms Kids Theater: Into The Woods (Cinderella); The Sound of Music (Maria); Les Miserables (Cosette). Denise Simon Theatre in The Park: The Wizard of Oz (Dorothy); Into The Woods (Cinderella).

Nabeel Jan '23 (Assistant Director, Fight Captain) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Acting III Final Projects (Assistant Director, Editor). The Pingry School: Into the Woods (Rapunzel's Prince, Cow); Rent (Soloist, Ensemble); Volunteer Eye (Co-Writer, Editor); The Cowen Documentary: 30 For 30 (Director, Editor); Mortem (Writer, Director, Editor). Bagels (Writer, Director, Editor)

**Katherine Leschner '23** (Rachael/River understudy) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: Love and Information (Ensemble). Tenafly High School: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime (Ensemble), Fiddler on the Roof (Grandma Tzeitel), Cinderella (Ensemble)

Griffin Miller '24 (Rhys Understudy) Bucknell Theatre and Dance

Jon Riker '22 (Bo) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: As You Like It (Touchstone); Cabaret (Schultz / u.s. Emcee, Cliff); Unheard/Unspoken (Thomas / Will); Blue Stockings (Will); Women and Wallace (Wallace). The Texas Shakespeare Festival: Romeo and Juliet (Peter, Gregory / u.s Romeo); Gnomes of Gnot-a-Hill (Charlie); Merry Wives of Windsor (Pistol, John / u.s. Master Page); The Book of Will (Marcellus, Crier / u.s. Jaggard). Pennsylvania Playhouse: Avenue Q (Rod). MA Theatre: Into the Woods (The Baker); Cymbeline (Posthumus / Fight Captain); Urinetown (Mr. Cladwell); Arcadia (Bernard); The Importance of Being Earnest (Ernest).

Julia Tokish '22 (Stage Manager) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: As You Like It (Olivia); The TBA Project (Ensemble); Cabaret (Matron); Unheard/Unspoken (Assistant Stage Manager); Love and Information (Ensemble). Ramsey High School: Don't Rock the Boat (Arlene); Godspell (Soloist/Acting Ensemble); Inspecting Carol (Zorah); Plaza Suite (Director); Hollywood Hillbillies (Cindy Lou); All Shook Up (Featured Ensemble/Student Director); You Can't Take It With You (Alice); No, No, Nanette (Flora); Leader of the Pack (Ensemble).

**Grace Woodhouse '25** (Cassidy Understudy) Bucknell Theatre & Dance: *Anxious People* (K). Emma Willard School Drama Department: *Revels* (Lady Claire); *The Wolves* (Assistant Director). The Young Actors Guild of the Capital Region: 13 Ways to Screw Up a College Interview (Director); *Little Women* (Jo); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ensemble); *Anne of Green Gables* (Anne).

### **DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE**

### THEATRE & DANCE AFFILIATE ARTISTS

Dr Jaye Austin Williams, Dr Benae Beamon, Dr Meenakshi Ponnuswami