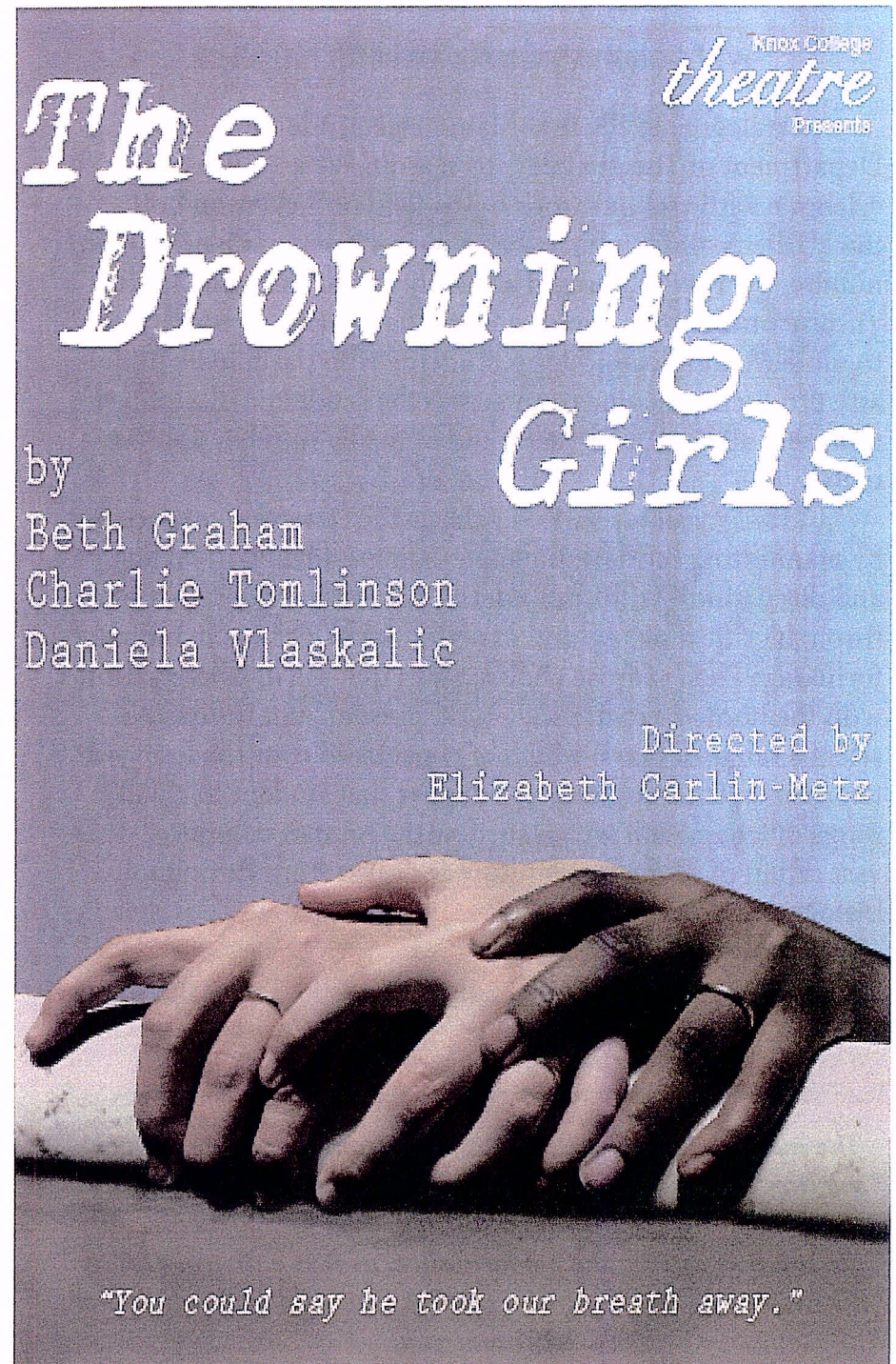


THE DROWNING GIRLS: NOW AND THEN

The circumstances of the play are based on the true story of George Joseph Smith, a British bigamist, thief, and serial killer. In 1915, the details of his murderous career were widely followed in the press throughout Great Britain, as he had resided in multiple cities throughout the country. Beginning in 1896, he persuaded a series of women working in service to steal from their employers, and married and abandoned as many as four women in succession and, in at least one case, concurrently. One woman, who was arrested and convicted of theft committed at his behest, implicated him, and he also was arrested and convicted of theft, serving one year. By 1915, he bigamously married as many as seven women and absconded with all of their savings, and, in some cases sold all of their possessions. In 1915, the owner of a boarding house presented the authorities with concerns that a recently married boarder had been murdered while in the bath. Upon investigation, it was concluded that not only had Smith married and murdered the woman, he also was the perpetrator of two other murders of women, whom he had married under assumed names. In all three cases, insurance policies had been taken out on the women just prior to their deaths, and in one case he was named as the unfortunate woman's heir. In all, his proceeds from nearly 10 years of bigamy, theft, fraud, and murder netted him well over half a million dollars (in today's money). In 1915 he was arrested for the murder of Margaret Loft, and the identical deaths of two of his wives, Alice Smith and Bessie Burnam, were presented as evidence in his trial. This was a precedent setting case, inaugurating the use of forensic evidence to establish a systematic pattern of crime. Following 20 minutes of deliberation by the jury, Smith was convicted of the murder of Margaret Loft, and hanged in 1915.

"George Joseph Smith" Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Joseph_Smith. Date accessed October 12, 2017.



WELCOME TO KNOX COLLEGE THEATRE

Welcome to the first Main Stage production of the Department of Theatre 2017-18 season. We are pleased to celebrate with you our work in the field of theatre on both the Harbach and Studio Theatre stages. Knox audiences often number over two thousand annually at Harbach and Studio Theatre productions ranging from the classics, to realism, and to modern and postmodern. Students who participate in theatre productions come from across the academic disciplines, represent all four class-years, and annually number approximately 400.

Every year we seek to enlarge the classroom experience by manifesting on stage the material investigated in books and discussions, with computers and construction tools, and through critical papers and experiential work in text and performance. Each year we choose plays that are in conversation with the human experience—past, present, and future. We select a range of plays, which, if considered over the four-year tenure of a Knox student, will expose that student to a wide range of lenses with which to view the human condition. This vast canon of dramatic literature is drawn from throughout history and around the world.

Enjoy the show!
— Liz Carlin-Metz, Chair

The audience is requested to refrain from recording the production by any medium, as it is a violation of copyright law. Please also silence all electronic devices, and most especially do not text during the performance, as it is a distraction to the live actors on stage, who can see you, and to the audience around you.

Knox College Theatre
presents:
November 1-4, 2017

The Drowning Girls

by Beth Graham, Charlie Tomlinson, and Daniela
Vlaskalic

Directed by: Liz Carlin-Metz
Scenic Design: Craig Choma '93
Lighting Design: Craig Choma '93
Costume Design: Margo Shively and Kristina Mengis '17
Sound Design: Josiah Schock '21

The Cast:

Bessie: Jayel Gant
Alice: Emma Bohman
Margaret: Hanna Levine

Running Time:

75 Minutes

There Is No Intermission

Audience members who exit during the performance will not be readmitted.

The Drowning Girls by Daniela Vlaskalic, Beth Graham, and Charlie Tomlinson is produced by special arrangement with the Playwrights Guild of Canada.

THEATRE DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Smith V. Brand Distinguished Prof. of Theatre	Liz Carlin Metz
Professor of Theatre	Neil Blackadder
Associate Professor of Theatre	Craig Choma
Associate Professor of Theatre	Jeif Grace
Director of Costumes & Makeup	Margo Shively
Writer-in-Residence	Sherwood Kiraly
Assistant Technical Director	Martin Helms

ADMINISTRATIVE

Department Chair	Liz Carlin-Metz
Program	Nabiha Mansoor
Poster	Craig Choma
Publicity	Student Volunteers
House Manager	Ben Rezko and Student Volunteers
Box Office and Ushers	Student Volunteers

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director	Liz Carlin Metz
Assistant Director	Amanda Roth '21
Stage Manager	Emma Lipson '18
Assistant Stage Manager	Amanda Roth '21
Technical Director	Craig Choma
Assistant Technical Director	Marty Helms '12
Set Designer	Craig Choma
Lighting Designer	Craig Choma
Projection Designer	Craig Choma
Sound Designer	Josiah Schock '21
Costume Designer	Margo Shively
Co-Costume Designer	Kristina Mengis '16
Costume Shop Teaching Assistants	Willa Coufal, Ren Barkey, Jayel Gant, Nola Thompson, Peter Rule, Evelyn Young, Flora Florova
Costume Shop Volunteers	Karen Lynch, Max Wiersum
Hair Designer	Jayel Gant '18
Movement Coach	Jayel Gant '18
Master Electrician	Brady Comenduley '18
Light Board Operator	Emma Lipson '18
Sound Board Operator	Josiah Schock '21
Scene Shop Teaching Assistants	Mitch Boyle, Brady Comenduley, Jack Harman, Nathan Levine, Emma Lipson, Ben Rezko, Josiah Schock, Cammie Stein
Scene Shop Volunteers	Katherine Asteriadou, Allie Boysen, Brian Dillard, Michelle Dudley, Jayel Gant, Jamie Heller, Jo Hill, Kaelyn Melrose, Allison Molinari, Gloria Ponce, Amanda Roth, Mia Rousonelos, Grace Rueter, Tim Stout, Arianna Tull, Joel Willison

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Jayel Gant '18 (Bessie, movement coach, hair designer) is a senior double majoring in theatre and creative writing. Jayel made their MainStage debut as a first year in *Mosque Alert* (Hadiya Hussein) and played the eponymous role in *Pamela*. Jayel was the student costume designer for *The Island of Slaves* and was the costume designer for *Doctor Faustus*. Jayel also participated in Repertory Theatre Term, as costume shop manager and playing the role of Jessica in *Neverwhere*. Jayel is a McNair student and recently participated in the Student Research Opportunities Program at The University of Illinois Urbana Champaign where they did research in performance studies with a focus on movement and empathy. Jayel is continuing their study this year through an honors project. Jayel is from Kansas, Missouri.

Emma Bohman '21 (Alice) is a first-year planning on double majoring in history and theatre. This is her first show at Knox. She has previously been seen off-campus at Conant High School (Hoffman Estates, Illinois) in *Lend Me a Tenor* (Maggie) and *Twelve Angry Jurors* (Juror #8). She would like to thank the wonderful cast and crew of this production for being so welcoming and supportive during her first term here at Knox. Emma is from Schaumburg, Illinois.

Hanna Levine '18 (Margaret) is a senior double majoring in theatre and creative writing. Hanna made her Main Stage debut as a sophomore in *The Island of Slaves* (Cleanthis), participated in Repertory Theatre Term in the ensemble of *Neverwhere*, and was in the ensemble of *Play*, a dramatic improvisation piece. Hanna thanks her dad for his willingness to share her dream. Hanna is from Irvine, California.

SPECIAL THANKS

Robin Metz, Camille and Emile Smith, Sebastian's Specialty Hardwoods, Inc., Corine Andersen, Peter Bailey, James Kilgore, Brady Comenduley, Ren Barkey, Casey Brayndick, Richard Norwood, Norwood Lighting, Scott Benson, Cathie Brush, Cammie Stein.

WHO'S WHO ON THE CREATIVE TEAM

Liz Carlin Metz (Director), Smith V. Brand Endowed Chair in Theatre Arts. Liz has directed and taught at Knox for 22 years. She teaches performance and dramatic literature and directs the program in Arts Administration. She is the founding Artistic Director of Vitalist Theatre (Chicago) and will direct a South Asian adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice* in Chicago for Rasaka Theatre, which will open at The Greenhouse Theatre in mid-March. She is originally from Rhode Island.

Margo Shively (Costume Designer) Began her career in the fashion industry after graduating from the Art Institute of Chicago. She interned with Oleg Cassini, and designed and freelanced for several years before coming to Knox to teach costume design. In her thirty years at Knox, Margo has designed - more frequently co-designed with students - countless plays. She has also designed for the Black Hills Playhouse in Custer, South Dakota and is a regular designer and consultant for Vitalist Theatre Company in Chicago where she has been actively involved since its first production of *The Mill On The Floss* in 1997. She is an active member of the U.S Institute for Theatre Technology, participating in symposiums on design and curriculum across the country. Her students have gone on to pursue Master's degrees at Yale, Carnegie Mellon, University of Connecticut at Storrs, and The University of Texas at Austin. Of her many experiences, she is most grateful for, and proud of, the opportunity to work with students who share her passion for design. Margo is from Galesburg, Illinois.

Kristina Mengis '16 (Co- Costume Designer) is a post-baccalaureate fellow in the Art Department this year. Kristina was a double major in Studio Art and Psychology and worked as a teaching assistant in the costume shop for 3 years. She helped create the costumes for characters including Margaret (*Richard III*), Islington (*Neverwhere*), and Euphrosyne (*Island of Slaves*). She also was the costume designer for last term's studio show *The Bald Soprano*. She would like to thank Margo Shively for the opportunity to help work on *The Drowning Girls* and for all of her guidance and support during the past three years. Kristina is from Mabel, Minnesota.

Craig Choma '93 (Scenic Designer, Lighting Designer, Projection Designer, Technical Director) Craig is an Associate Professor of Theatre at Knox College (resident designer and technical director). Favorite Knox designs include *Richard III*, *The Nether*, *The Secret In The Wings*, *Neil Gaiman's Neverwhere*, *Rapture*, *Blister, Burn*, *The Caffè Cino Project*, *In The Next Room (or the vibrator play)*, *Next Fall*, *The Green Bird*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Under Construction*, *Twelfth Night*, *A Lie of The Mind*, *Medea*, *Angels in America*, *Intimate Apparel*, *Rosa & Blanca*, *The Skriker*, *Noises Off*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *As You Like It*, *The Grapes of*

Wrath, *War and Peace*, *Arcadia*, and *Macbeth*. Craig is also an inaugural member of Vitalist Theatre in Chicago, where his designs include the award winning productions of *A Passage to India* (sets) and *Mother Courage and Her Children* (sets), *Anna Karenina* (sets), *Floating Rhoda and the Glue Man* (sets), *King Lear* (lighting), *The Mill On The Floss* (set and lighting), and the world premiere of *Anung's First American Christmas* (set). Other Chicago designs include the sets for *Death and the Maiden* (Timeline), *Pippin*, *Night Sky*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream and Museum*. Craig holds a BA in Theatre and Philosophy (Knox College) and MFA's in both Scenic and Lighting Design (Carnegie Mellon University). Craig thanks his amazing wife and two beautiful daughters for their boundless creativity and unconditional love.

Josiah Schock '21 (Sound Designer) is a first year with an undecided major. He has acted in *Fifth Planet* (Mike), *The Penny Dreadfuls* (The Professor) and *As You Like It* (Jaques). Josiah has designed for *Up The Down Staircase* and *A Piece of My Heart*. He has directed *Words, Words, Words* and *Fifth Planet*. Josiah is from Birmingham, Alabama.

Emma Lipson '18 (Stage Manager) is a senior majoring in Theatre and minoring in Arts Administration and Business and Management. Her past stage management credits include *Importance of Being Earnest* (SM), *Einstein's Brains* (SM), *Hug it Out* (SM), *The Secret in the Wings* (SM), *The Island of Slaves* (SM), *Richard III* (ASM), *Rapture Blister Burn* (ASM), *Mosque Alert* (ASM), and *The Caffè Cino Project* (ASM). This past summer Emma interned at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Box Office and House Management. Emma would like to thank her friends for forgiving her for never leaving CFA and her parents for supporting her theatre dreams with love and chocolate covered raisins. Emma is from Norwalk, Connecticut.

Amanda Roth '21 (Assistant Director/Assistant Stage Manager) is a First-Year student and prospective Theater major. She was in nine high school productions such as *The Sound of Music*, *Annie*, and *The Fiddler on the Roof*. *The Drowning Girls* is her 11th show, and 2nd at Knox. She wants to thank Emma, Jayel, Hanna, Emma and Liz, for being encouraging and caring, as well as supporting her in her efforts to learn more about being a director and stage manager. She looks forward to making many more memories with the theatre department in the years to come. Amanda is from Woodland Park, Colorado.

Please join the cast and creative team for a Post Performance Discussion following the show on Thursday, November 2 at approximately 8:45 P.M.