

Hey everyone!

It's Ashley here. I am very humbled to direct *Hamlet* this spring. It is my favorite show, and I can't wait to see the talent in E-52 take on this huge endeavor with me. I couldn't imagine a better group of people to work with on this project! Given that we are still in the middle of a pandemic, this production will be a bit unusual, but nevertheless iconic! Stick with me on this one:

Hamlet is still happening! But with a few MAJOR and majorly awesome changes. *For the first time in E-52 history, we will be producing a film.*

Unfortunately, participation in this production is limited to those of us who are on/near campus this spring! However, E52 will be offering other online productions to take part in. So, please check those out!

Hear me out:

While I mourn the loss of my beloved pyramid steps, this idea allows us to have a safe and social distanced, innovative production!

The idea is to have a dramatic reading with the occasional bout of blocking. There are typically no more than 5-8 actors in a scene. Every actor will wear a minor costume and a "Hamlet" mask (because why the heck not!). We can film in Bacchus (or any other space). This is a great opportunity for E-52 to fine-tune our acting chops! This will be **well** filmed. Hopefully we can rent out cameras and mics (although, I have some of my own that I plan on bringing to campus with me) and stitch them together to make a video to present to online audiences.

I would like to rehearse and film the production throughout the semester. This way, we are not stuck in a windowless room together for hours on end trying to rehearse/film. There is no set—just a few chairs—minimal costumes, and a few props. I would still expect people to be off-book for the particular scene being filmed!

I included p-staff positions for cinematographers and editors! **If anyone is interested in filming or editing, contact me!** I would LOVE the help! Editing is also a great way for someone who's off-campus to be involved with the production!

This is VERY different than we are used to. But this is a crazy time, and we can be adaptable and still produce safe, quality work!

PROS:

- Fun and innovative way to produce an E52 show!
- Safe and social-distanced!
- Emphasis on the text and acting without all the usual pageantry!
- Can put music in the background
- Awesome new masks for cast and crew! (they match CDC guidelines)
- Film credit for theatre resume

- Casual, but creative work environment
- My undying appreciation and love <3 <3 <3

Auditions and Callbacks!

Since this such a huge undertaking, we have decided to start on auditions as soon as possible:

Auditions will be conducted via video submission; I have uploaded the audition sides to the E-52 website e52theatre.com. Submit the audition to the google form!

Audition Dates: Monday, January 25th – Saturday, January 30th

Callbacks will be very different this semester! Since we will not be in person, callbacks will also be conducted virtually. During the weekend of 1/31-2/1, if you are called back, you will receive an email notifying you which supplemental videos you will need to submit by the end of the week. As always, not receiving a callback is not an indicator that you are not cast!

Callback Dates: Monday, February 1st – Saturday, February 6th

We scheduled them early because it gives everyone involved plenty of time to familiarize themselves with the script! It's best not to go into the read-through cold with this show!

To thine own self be true,
Ashley