

ENCORE

SPRING
2021

E-52 Theatre Club



UPCOMING

Board Elections: April 5th

Virtual Talent Show: April 5th

Virtual 24 Hours: April 24

Hamlet Audio Book

Skywalker the Musical

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CREATING HAMLET



Ashley Taylor, Director: Like all things, directing *Hamlet* started off as a dream—a shot in the dark—and, in many ways, it still feels like that. This is my favorite show of all time. I've loved it since my senior year of high school when I played Gertrude, and I knew there was no way I would graduate from UD without working on this show again in whatever capacity I could. Over the last year, that "capacity" has certainly changed! My original vision is but the shadow of a dream at this point, and it has been incredibly stressful making adjustments to this show. Not a single decision has been easy, except for my decision to carry on with it. The cast and crew have come together as an amazing support system for creativity, demonstrating their strength, determination, and adaptability. Without their dedication, I would not have been able to keep going with this. For them, I am eternally grateful. Besides, what's cooler than an audiobook? Really! I mean that! It's such an exciting endeavor for E52—discovering new mediums and challenging the cast and crew to push themselves. Now, we can brag (humbly, of course) that in addition to everything E52 has done to meet the challenge of this pandemic, we made an audiobook! The cast can put down voice acting on their resumes! Hello? Disney, here we come!

I am beyond proud of everyone involved with this piece and I'm so excited to share all their hard work with the rest of the world! (Yes, the world!)



HAMLET CONT'D

What has the process of modifying Hamlet throughout the last few months been like? What is like to be producing E-52's first ever audiobook?

Avery Houle, SM: From the beginning of the whole production, *Hamlet* has been an incredibly crazy, exciting, and fulfilling experience. On a personal level, this is my first time taking on a non-acting role in a show, which has been an amazing opportunity. Starting with watching audition videos up until now when I get to sit at rehearsals and work with the rest of the rehearsal staff and the cast, I've learned something at each and every step. The production as a whole has had its fair share of twists and reimagining's. Starting as a Main Stage production slated for Fall 2020 to a movie to an audiobook and vlogumentary produced in the COVID infected Spring 2021 semester, I think it's safe to say that this production has certainly undergone a huge metamorphosis. But, I believe that this change is going to make our version of *Hamlet* that much more unique and memorable. The talented cast has pivoted with the project beautifully and Director Ashley has been incredibly graceful and thoughtful through all the changes. Even with only a few rehearsals under our belts since deciding to produce an audiobook, I'm already starting to hear the characters being embodied by the cast member's voices. All that to say that while the original vision for our production might have been the victim of "a murder most foul", this reimagined show is going to be one for the ages! It's a unique, out-side-of-the-box production that I'm honored to be a part of. I can't wait until everyone can see and hear all the staff's and cast's hard work come together to create E-52's first audiobook production!

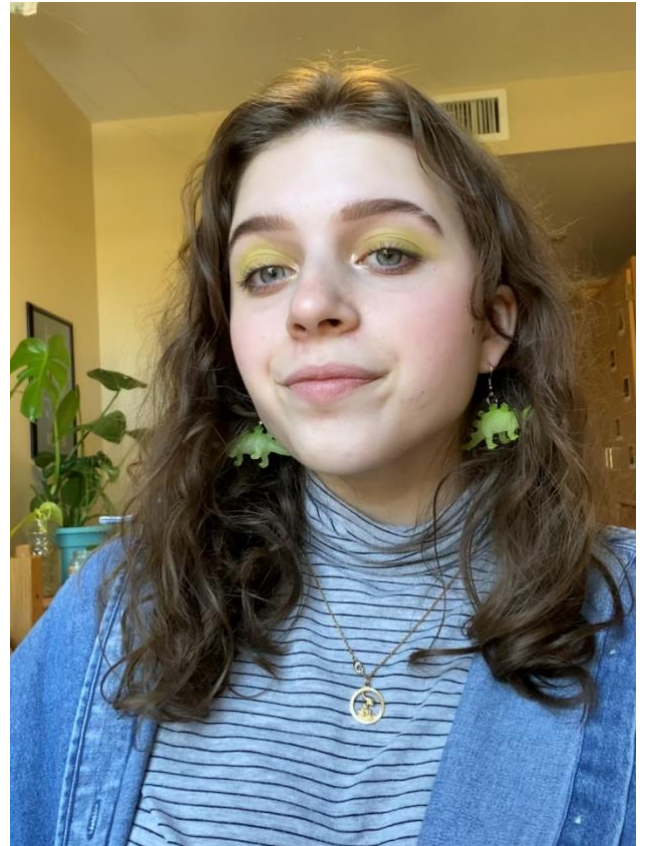
Emily O'Hara, ASM: For me, over the last few months, the biggest thing that comes to mind when thinking about *Hamlet's* production is humility. As the pandemic has been a part of our lives for over a year now, certain amounts of comfort with our new situation has grown. Unfortunately, there is no room to be comfortable in a pandemic, and my original, personal hope of seeing everyone working together again was a bit naive. That being said, the experience of navigating this production from casting over Zoom, to attempting to create a film, and now, going a different course with the audiobook, has been a constant reminder that normal life now is remaining flexible and still very cautious. All of that in mind, this is exactly what Ashley and everyone has been doing, and their work has protected and continued to make this a very positive experience. As for the audiobook itself, I am very excited. I think this will open up so many new doors for E-52, and I am excited to embark on all of the ideas and intricacies that come from engaging with it. I think it's going to end up being something really special.

Christine Marchesano, PM: From that start, we knew that we would all have to be very flexible if this show was going to be produced. With the pandemic and constantly changing campus restrictions, we knew that anything could happen that would affect the show. Ashley had to decide very early on that the original live performance wouldn't be possible and that a movie could. The decision to make it an audiobook definitely wasn't easy, but it did follow with other decisions we all had to make. So far, the cast and crew have been amazing and made the transition in format flawless. As Production Manager, I am around the production staff the most, and they have taken all the excitement from making a movie and put it towards the audio book! Their positions have changed now that we no longer require certain things, but they are so excited about the show that they have changed with them. We are incredibly happy to still be making this show with all our friends, and we cannot wait to listen to the finished product!

Producing E-52's first audiobook is also gearing up to be an amazing new experience! The pandemic has forced us to take on a lot of new events and formats, but they always turn out great and are a safe way to be involved in student theatre! It's so important to keep doing shows virtually for the membership of E-52 but also for our audiences! These events allow so many people to get involved in different ways and the end result is an amazing show that people can listen to and enjoy. I can't wait to listen to our first audiobook and for it to be another first in the E-52 books!

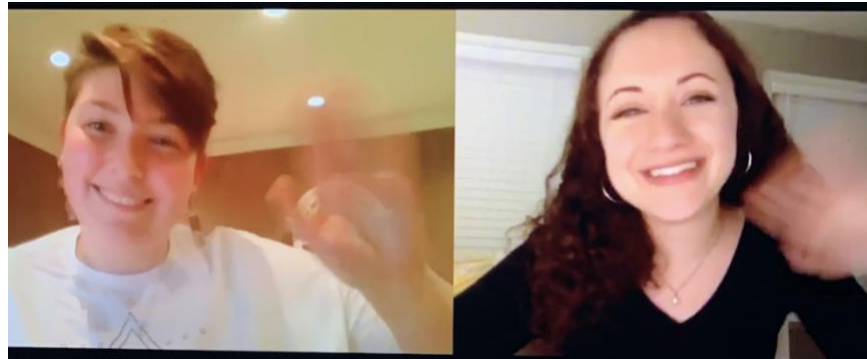
NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ANNIE HICKS: Hi, my name is Annie Hicks and I am a History Education major in the class of 2024. I found out about E-52 at the Student Involvement Fair this past fall. I was a part of stage crew throughout all of high school and I wanted a way to continue that into college. The people at E-52 won me over immediately! I wasn't sure exactly how production staff would work during a fully virtual semester, but we were able to make it work. I am very excited to continue working on p-staff in upcoming productions. So far I have done zoom backgrounds and posters, but maybe one day I will be able to get back into building and tech! I'm so glad that I joined E-52; it has probably been the best part of my college experience thus far.



JOSIAH TAYLOR: I'm Josiah Taylor and I'm a freshman Marketing student. I found out about E-52 through StUDent Central's RSO welcome week, and I'm so glad I did! I was super involved in the theater program in high school, and I'm excited to continue that involvement here with E-52. Especially after seeing the strength of the actors here at the Zoom watch party of Noises Off and at this year's SAST, I can't wait to see what I can contribute to the group.

CHECK PLEASE REFLECTIONS



Heidi Fliegelman:

I am so thankful that I had the experience to work on *Check Please!* In a winter that was otherwise long, dark, and stressful, it was incredible to have such a positive community to come rehearse with a couple of times a week. The cast was incredibly talented, and I could tell from the first read that our final show was going to be hilarious. Must like working on SAST, working on this production showed me that E-52 is really unstoppable; we can come together to make people laugh no matter what separates us-- even a computer screen! It was also so wonderful to do this with Christine. We have been doing shows together throughout our entire E-52 experience, and I am glad that we could end our senior year as co-directors! All together, I am beyond proud of everyone involved in *Check Please*. We proposed this show on a total whim, but I am incredibly glad that we did. :)

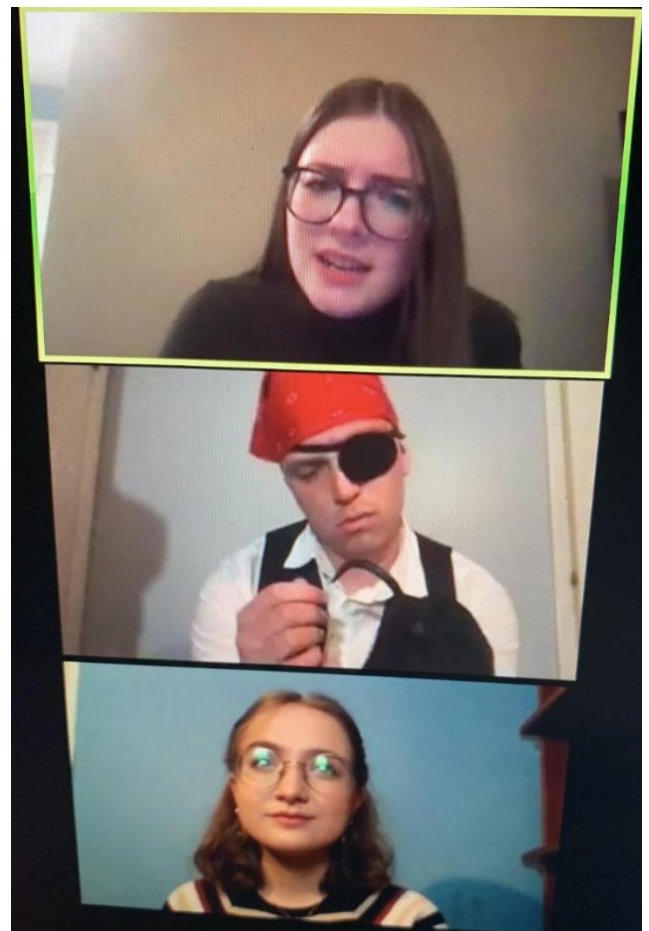


CHECK, PLEASE CONT'D



Christine Marchesano:

I had an amazing time directing *Check Please!* It was my first time ever really directing and the cast was so amazing and fun to work with! Even when I was super stressed out from the day, running the rehearsals always made me feel so much better. The cast gave so much life to the script and between their acting and their amazing costumes, they definitely went above and beyond to put on a great show! Even though we were virtual, it honestly never felt like we were on zoom- it always felt like everyone was in the room with me. Right when I thought I knew how a scene was going to go or sound, they would add a new gesture or a new way of saying a line and it cracked me up every time. I'm so happy to have directed with Heidi, we had an amazing time from start to finish and I couldn't imagine directing with anybody else! We almost didn't even choose *Check Please*, but I am really glad that we did. This script was definitely not one to forget :)



SHORT STORY SUBMISSION

The Choice
By Alexis Kennedy

I couldn't help but think I was making the wrong decision. My eyes, heavy with exhaustion, kept seeing his face over and over again. I could still feel the graceful touch of his fingers caressing my skin. Even thinking of it gave me chills of delight as my body tingled with the memory. The weekend that passed would never allow things to stay the same. The once best friend was now part of my moral dilemma. We ruined any chance at a normal friendship. Hell! How was I to return home and pretend everything was okay? Was I to go back and resume my life, just like it was before I fell for James? Before I realized that I loved two men? Why was God punishing me? Hadn't I busted my ass to make sure I was doing everything right? How was I to look Matt in the face and lie to him? I had done the worst of the worst. Yet, I didn't even care anymore.

Should I turn around? Leave everything behind? Should I run as fast as I could back to James' beautiful embrace and say, *I will always love you and only you*? Didn't I say the same to Matt ten years ago when he placed the simple yet elegant single diamond on my finger? How typical of me. Once I get bored of James, who will I turn to next? Who will I THEN say I love?

A few people staggered in the terminal, pulling their carry-ons. One passerby smiled in my direction. Go figure, I thought, will I fall in love with *him* too? What is wrong with me? Was I making the biggest mistake of my life? I should run. Run all the way back. Who cares about all the material things in Maryland? I love *James*! He loves me too, right? Or maybe not. Maybe I read too much into those perfectly soft lips. Perhaps the squeeze of his hand was just a muscle spasm. Perhaps he only held me so close to forget about Kaylee. She hurt him so bad. I flinched every time his face turned upside down when her name was mentioned. I could see the pain in his eyes as his soul bled a little more. I wanted to make that pain go away. How do I compete with that? I am making the right choice. Why would I stay in Hays anyway? I hated it there. I would only kill myself trying to cover the memory of Kaylee anyway. No. I can't hurt myself for the perfect kiss. What kind of reason is that? So what if I felt sparks when his soft, flavorful lips touched my crooked mouth. So what if my blood boiled and my skin seemed to melt away at his touch. I could have that with Matt if I tried hard enough. I could turn this around. There was no need for this.

"Boarding for flight 352 will begin shortly," an overhead speaker blared.

A group of eager passengers began to descend on the flight attendant, hoping to be the first one on the plane, as a parent-less toddler ran through the aisles of still-seated travelers. His face filled with delight as what appeared to be a father scooped him up and carried him back to their seats.

SHORT STORY CONT'D

Shivers of memories returned to my body as my fingers remembered how they entwined in James' curly brown hair, making my heart flutter. I squeezed my eyes shut and took a deep breath. I remembered the caress of his lips on mine, shortening my breath. Suddenly jerking forward, my eyes shot open. Trying to catch my breath, I could see a middle-aged woman cock her head sideways in confusion at my sudden panic.

"My dear, should I get someone for you? you look pale." She said.

"No, thank you, ma'am. I'm okay," I said with flushed cheeks.

She smiled and went back to what looked like an old, tattered crossword book. If only my life could be that simple. Instead, I decided to clutter it with more men. Like it was normal or something!

I knew I would break Matt's heart. He already loathed my relationship with James. *It should be me you talk to. Not him! Why is that too much to ask for of my wife?* He had said years before, and I hated him for making me choose. Now I knew I should have. Matt was right. I should have talked to him. What was I thinking to believe I could keep James a platonic best friend? Why didn't I see what was happening? Why am I *always* so oblivious to my own feelings? I was now in love, almost equally, with two men.

My head hurt with all the sadness that invaded my once happy life. I could feel a migraine running to slam against my temple.

"Zone two ready for boarding at this time, thank you." the speaker announced.

Last chance, I thought. What did I want? My hands began shaking. My exhaustion quickly changed to nausea as the thoughts tumbled through my mind. This is it. Now or never. Who could I *really* be happy with? I gripped the straps of my backpack too tight. I winced at the pain of my nails digging into my palm. I stood up and began pacing as their names flashed on my head. James. Matt. James. Matt. Oh, This would be so much easier if I didn't love both. I came to a complete stop when I noticed a police officer staring at me.

"You coming or going, miss? I can't have you blocking the door," He asked hurriedly.

"I'm so sorry," I responded with a smile and pushed through the door.

I was staying.

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