



NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE

an/(one's) ivory tower

Devised by Erin Culp†, Dawson Del Preto, Danae DeValve, Grace Goodyear, Jacob Laitinen, David Lenahan, Kate Karling†, Sophie Sam†, Alec Vanhorn, Samantha Wardisiani, and Zoe Zimmer

Scenic Design

*Lex van Blommestein
Ross W. Johnson*

Costume Design

Joel Shinavier†

Artistic Director

Lex van Blommestein

Properties Design

Sylvia Bednarczyk†

Sound Design

William Squires IV

Production Stage

Manager

Toni Danz

Director

Sophie Sam†

PLEASE NOTE

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is prohibited without prior authorization.

February 10-13, 2021

Director's Note

I believe that creating devised work can be one of the most interesting and powerful ways to create/experience art. I'm very happy that the Theatre and Dance Department at NMU has been experimenting with this group-orientated style of collaboration a fair bit over the last few years, perhaps most notably with *What We Leave Behind: Addressing Climate Change Through Dance*. I firmly believe that this style of creation can really help facilitate artistic growth and the discovery of personal process more than just about any other act of art.

Director Rachel Chavkin often says of creating devised work that you're moving at the speed of trust, and indeed that was the case with our show. Over the course of the last three and a half months, we all worked incredibly hard not just on developing our story, but in attempting to discover more about ourselves and how to articulate the ways we need to work as artistic creators and collaborators. I'm proud to report that I believe we made good progress on both fronts.

I need to give a shout out to David Lenahan and Grace Goodyear, two of our collaborators on *an/(one's) ivory tower*. There was a point in the process where we needed to bring in a few new faces, and I'm so thankful that they were willing to Zoom in from states away to lend not only their artistic talents but also their wonderful vibes as human beings to the project.

As a final set of thank you's, I need to thank one of my mentors, Oliver Butler, who convinced me that I shouldn't pass up working on this show. I also need to thank the Theatre and Dance faculty for supporting me extensively throughout the process, and for trusting me to do my part to help make this happen. And finally, I need to thank everyone who had a hand in creating this piece. Each and every person that worked on this, even if only briefly, helped craft it into something wholly unique that we wouldn't have been able to do on our own.

Thank you.

Sophie Sam

Cast

The Past

Bimbo the Clown	<i>Jacob Laitinen</i>
Char	<i>Erin Culp†</i>
Flanders Bascom	<i>Alec Vanhorn</i>
Kitty	<i>Zoe Zimmer</i>
Olivera	<i>Kate Karling†</i>
Ophelia	<i>Danae DeValve</i>
Sir James McCarthy	<i>Dawson Del Preto</i>

The Present

Blake	<i>Grace Goodyear</i>
Mary-Anne	<i>Sam Wardisiani</i>
Quinn	<i>David Lenahan</i>

† Indicates membership in Alpha Psi Omega, the National Theatre Honors Society

For cast and artistic staff biographies, copies are available online at www.nmu.edu/theatreanddance.

Additional Artistic Staff

Technical Director.....*Ross W. Johnson*

Assistant Director.....*Erin Culp†*

Forest Roberts Theatre Staff

Director of Theatre.....*Bill Digneit*

Production Manager.....*David Pierce*

Costume Shop Supervisor.....*Ann Juidici*

Scene Shop Foreman.....*Ross W. Johnson*

Properties Artisan.....*Keli Crawford-Truckey*

Lighting Supervisor.....*David Pierce*

Sound Supervisor.....*Bill Digneit*

Marketing Manager.....*Lilith Kontos*

Special Thanks To:

Keli Crawford-Truckey

Megan Hibbard

Kortney Manchip

Rebecca Piepszak

Ethan Rickert

Sophie Shrauger

Will Smith

First Nighters Club (as of October 2, 2020)

Advisory Board President: Elise McCommons **Vice President:** Faye Elder

Secretary: Jill Grundstrom **Treasurer:** Bill Digneit

Members: Dave Dagenais, Lori Ogawa-Mentink, Adrienne Vermeulen, Jill Vermeulen

The mission of the **First Nighters Club** (FNC) is to support advanced creative learning experiences for Northern Michigan University's theatre and dance students.

As a member of the FNC, you are eligible for participation on the **FNC Advisory Board**. The Board consists of up to 15 community members who serve as volunteers and advisory council to support the exchange of ideas, provide feedback information to faculty and students, and serve as ambassadors to stimulate community interest while promoting NMU's theatrical arts programs.

Thank you for attending today's performance. Your ongoing support ensures progressive learning is sustained.

- Donate to NMU's Foundation – Theatre and Dance Program. Donations can range from \$1.00 to \$5,000+ and you will receive recognition in the program.
- Purchase season tickets or a flex ticket package.
- Consider becoming an FNC member.

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