

BY CLARE BARRON
DIRECTED BY LEILA TEITELMAN



March 27 - March 31
Royall Tyler Theatre

#### **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement**

The campus of the University of Vermont sits within a place of gathering and exchange, shaped by water and stewarded by ongoing generations of Indigenous peoples, in particular the Western Abenaki.

UVM respects the Indigenous knowledge interwoven in this place and commits to uplifting the Indigenous peoples and cultures present on this land and within our community.

Read UVM's official Land Acknowledgement Here.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

During the performances of Dance Nation, There will be moments of intense lighting and loud, sudden noises.

For a complete list of content warnings for this production and for more info scan the QR code below.



DANCE NATION received its UK premiere at the Almeida Theatre, London, September 2018.

Playwrights Horizons, Inc., New York City, produced the World Premiere of DANCE NATION in 2018 with support from an award by the National Endowment of the Arts, and a generous gift from Scott M. Delman.

Special thanks to The Harold and Mimi Steinberg Trust for supporting new plays at Playwrights Horizons, and special thanks to the Time Warner Foundation for its leadership support of New Works Lab at Playwrights Horizons.

DANCE NATION was developed at the Perry-Mansfield New Works Festival, June 2015, with the Atlantic Theatre Company, and presented as part of the Contemporary American Voices Festival at Long Wharf Theatre, September 2016.

DANCE NATION was written, in part, in residence at SPACE on Ryder Farm, and received extensive workshop time and space as part of New Dramatists' Jerry A. Tishman Playwrights Creativity Fund.

# The University of Vermont School of the Arts Program in Theatre & Dance Presents

## Dance Nation

### By Clare Barron

Director	~	Leila Teitelman		
Choreographer	~	Julie Peoples-Clark		
Scenic Designer	~	Sara Nelson		
Costume Designer	~	Jennifer Bilbo		
Lighting Designer	~	Jackie Lemieux		
Sound Designer	~	Craig Zemsky		
Dramaturg	~	Adeline Cota		
Production Stage Manager	~	Acadia Johnson		
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Charlie Bolduan		
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Kate Myers		
Assistant Stage Manager	~	Alexis Santo		
Assistant Director	~	Maddie Leitch		
Property Master	~	Evan Dodge		
CAST				
	CAST			
Dance Teacher Pat		Pat Boll		
Amina		Ellyn Drysdale		
		Ellyn DrysdaleArden Gonzalez		
AminaZuzu		Ellyn DrysdaleArden GonzalezMicah Menezes		
AminaZuzu Connie		Ellyn DrysdaleArden GonzalezMicah MenezesDaniel Gibson		
Amina Zuzu Connie Luke		Ellyn DrysdaleArden GonzalezMicah MenezesDaniel GibsonPaloma Herrera		
Amina Zuzu Connie Luke Maeve		Ellyn DrysdaleArden GonzalezMicah MenezesDaniel GibsonPaloma HerreraTéa van Linde		
Amina Zuzu Connie Luke Maeve Sofia.		Ellyn DrysdaleArden GonzalezMicah MenezesDaniel GibsonPaloma HerreraTéa van LindeCaira Adams		
Amina Zuzu Connie Luke Maeve Sofia Ashlee		Ellyn DrysdaleArden GonzalezMicah MenezesDaniel GibsonPaloma HerreraTéa van LindeCaira AdamsElizabeth (Liz) Oliver		

Dance Nation is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals On behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

The running time for this performance is approximately 90 minutes with no intermission.

#### Director's Note

We often assign power and talent and success as belonging to an individual, achieved through luck or long years of suffering and sacrifice, of shrinking and whittling oneself until you're ready to present a fully-formed, perfect you. We believe, or are taught to believe, that in the audition of life, we cannot all get the part of Gandhi. We must be individually exceptional in order to achieve that role and thus we hold the immense weight of walking through this life, our bodies sharing space with one another, yet feeling the overwhelming anxiety of being alone.

What Clare Barron does so beautifully in *Dance Nation* is illustrate how we cannot be singular in our power. The webs of people shaping, supporting, teaching and challenging us only accumulate over our lives, resulting in an ever-changing organism at once complete and wholly unformed, ready to be moved and yet stable. We witness these dancers sharing in the powerful moment of intense liminality between youth and adulthood, a moment that often dictates the ideas we hold about our own capabilities. The play is not about living in perfection but rather in those spaces between wonder and fear, unabashed and embarrassed, winning and losing.

I've always hated claiming my own creativity because it feels like a declaration of my intelligence. As Zuzu's passion, Ashlee's power, Amina's talent- it feels scary to say this is what I think and who I am and what I'm capable of. As young women, we are expected to take up as little space as possible, to apologize for our thoughts and bodies and interests and sexuality. It feels scary. This is what I think and who I am and what I'm capable of. Scary. Dance Nation dares us to stare into the mouth of a big, unapologetic, fierce, feminine monster and ask the question: what if there was room for all of us? What if talent and success and power was not on the shoulders of the individual but the collective? If we express the biggest parts of ourselves fully, does it actually make space for others to do the same? What if there is no scarcity, only amplification?

The cast and crew had long conversations about our own memories of youth and puberty and growth and there was so much that felt familiar. It's as if we were all waiting to be recognized and when we finally said *this is what I think and who I am and what I'm capable of*, we were met with intense recognition, laughter and joy.

I would like to take this moment to thank my wonderful family- Paul, Lisa (x2), Tamar, Ilana, Hailey, Avi, Elon, Lior and Fia. The teachers who *made me*-David, Rachel, Ken and Marty. The friends who carry me through- Nelly, Sam, Lydia, & EmJ (this is a play for our youth).

#### Leila Teitelman – March 2024

#### Dramaturg's Note

The experience of adolescence is tumultuous and intense. Our childhoods are filled with rawness and vulnerability. Everything is magnified and one moment can feel like the end of the world. *Dance Nation* captures the essence of this experience, exploring the lives and emotions of tween dancers striving to make it to nationals. Events may feel extreme or absurd in this play, but the world tends to feel that way when you're 13... or maybe always.

Our experiences in adolescence shape the framework from which we view our lives. As you immerse yourself in the world of *Dance Nation*, I encourage you to reflect on your own adolescence. What was most important to you at 13? What defining moments shaped your worldview? How does your childhood self still live in you today? *Dance Nation* is a reminder that our childhood selves remain intertwined with our present-day identities.

Dance Nation came out of a time in Clare Barron's life when she was experiencing complicated emotions surrounding ambition and success due to patriarchal notions. She found herself feeling uncomfortable taking up space and accepting recognition as a playwright – emotions stemming from the implicit societal training young girls receive. Barron wanted to be able to acknowledge her own power without negatively impacting others. In Dance Nation, she investigates these feelings through the cases of the young dancers. She creates powerful characters striving to be the best while working within an unfair system that gives more opportunities to some than others. The girls are finding their potential in a world that teaches them not to stand up for themselves.

Barron tackles taboo topics in the play, providing a voice to the unspoken truths that often lie within us. In an interview with Playwrights Horizons, she says "it all goes back to this feeling of repression, and the desire to say something that people feel like they can't let come out, and so they're given, like, a release when the play lets it out into the room." I invite you to surrender to the power of *Dance Nation* and be touched by the echoes of your own childhood self. I hope you find release through this play, as Clare Barron intended.

#### Adeline Cota

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Tovahn Vitols
Catherine Cunningham
Sarah Richter

UVM School of the Arts Theatre and Dance Faculty & Staff Sarah Bush and the entire Costume Shop Crew

#### Dance Nation ~ The Company

#### PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION		
Stage Manager	~	~ Acadia Johnson
Assistant Stage Managers	~	Charlie Bolduan, Kate Myers, Alexis Santo
Properties Build Crew	Faylor Bro ey, Magnol	Nox Giordano, Ally McKenna, Blue Steves ck, Lainie Clark, Evan Dodge, Maddie Leitch,Taylor Brock, Helen Cressy, Kaia Dahlin, lia Laich, Chris Llanos, Kate Manitsky, arney, Cadin Pinney, Julia Riesman
Wardrobe CrewAbb Wardrobe ConstructionCh Sabrina Doyle, Nox Giordand	oie Burdick arlie Boldu o, Jonas He	Halina Vercessi A, Carley Hall, Amanda Redmond, Lily Walton Dian, Audrey Buzza, Franny Ruth Daleo-Clark, Demmett, Ethan Humphrey, Violett Lacroix, A Rousseau, Emily Vela, Tovahn Vitols
Electricians	Adams, Em exis Santo,	
FRONT OF HOUSE  Box Office/Marketing Staff  Lydia Gayle St. Marie, Regan		Marty Gnidula, Erica Kaiser, uliana Gagne

### Who's who in the cast of Dance Nation

#### Caira Adams (Ashlee)

Caira Adams (She/Her) is very excited to be in her second UVM Main Stage production, her first being *Bright Half Life*, as Vicky. Caira is a senior theater major, with a film/television studies Minor, and hopes to pursue a professional career in the theater/entertainment industry after she graduates. She wants to thank her mom for all the support given in her life, and especially in theater. With that, please enjoy the show!

#### Pat Boll (Dance Teacher Pat)

Pat Boll is a Junior from Weehawken, NJ majoring in Music Technology & Business and minoring in Film & Television studies. He is elated to be in his first Mainstage production with UVM's theater program. His previous productions with UVM include Medusa as part of the senior one-act capstones his freshman year, and the senior capstone showcase his sophomore year. He would like to

extend endless gratitude to his Stage Manager and dear friend Acadia Johnson, as well as the rest of the production crew for their tireless effort on this production.

#### Ellyn Drysdale (Amina)

Ellyn is a sophomore at UVM studying Public Communications with minors in political science and dance. She is from Westchester, New York and has been doing theater since 4th grade at her local theater, Yorktown Stage and has been dancing since kindergarten. Two of her recent roles have been Heather Chandler in *Heathers* and Penelope Pennywise in *Urinetown*. This is Ellyn's first performance at the Royall Tyler Theatre, and she would like to thank the entire cast, crew, and production team for giving her this opportunity to work with such incredible people. Hell is a teenage girl, enjoy the show!

#### Daniel Gibson (Luke)

Daniel Gibson (He/They) is a first-year Political Science major with minors in Musical Theatre and Jewish Studies from Burlington, Vermont. Daniel is thrilled to be returning to the UVM mainstage after having appeared in *Imogen Says Nothing* in the fall. Other credits include: Hanschen, *Spring Awakening* (Full Circle Theater), Ensemble/Featured Dancer, *Shrek: The Musical* (Lyric Theatre), and Ensemble, *Matilda: The Musical* (Lyric Theatre), this summer, Daniel will be playing Pippin in Full Circle's *Pippin*. Outside of theatre, Daniel's a UVM tour guide, a member of Citizens Climate Lobby, and loves hiding in Howe Library procrastinating. A special thanks to his friends and family for all their love and support.

#### Arden Gonzalez (Zuzu)

Arden Gonzalez is a freshman Theatre major at UVM and is very excited to be making her Royall Tyler Theatre stage debut! Her past credits include *The Curious Savage* (Lily Belle), *Romeo and Juliet* (Prince Escalus), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Starveling), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tzeitel) and many more. She would like to thank her friends and family for their endless support and thanks Leila for being an incredible director and mentor. She would also love to acknowledge the talented cast and crew for all their hard work. Enjoy the show!

#### Paloma Herrera (Maeve)

Paloma Herrera is a Senior Film and Television Studies major minoring in Theatre and Writing at UVM. The audience is privileged to witness her astonishing premier and triumphant final performances with the department! Paloma wants to say thank you to all her beautiful friends and family who had to listen to her say "Sorry, I can't. I have rehearsal". She hopes this play reminds you no matter how old you get, that there's a ferocious, wonderful, cringey 13-year-old in all of us. Let her howl. Finally, much love to the crew and other cast members. They are the heart and soul in this *Dance Nation*.

#### Téa van Linde (Sofia)

Téa is a graduating senior majoring in both English and Sociology and minoring in Theatre. She is thrilled to join this cast and crew for her second main-stage

production at UVM. She previously appeared in *Straight White Men* in the Fall of 2022. Téa is the Chair of the UVM Program Board and spends most of her time on campus planning and running events for students. She wants to thank her mom, dad, and Oma for encouraging all of her theatrical endeavors over the past 16 years, and for traveling so far to continue to support her here.

#### Emma MacLaren (Vanessa/Understudy/Dancer))

Emma MacLaren is a Sophomore Theater and English Major from Canton, Connecticut. This is her second time performing in a main stage production at UVM, and she is absolutely thrilled to dance her heart out! Some of her past roles include Performer 1 in *Walking*, Rosie in *Mamma Mia*, Emma in *Emma a Pop Musical*, and Xanthias in *The Frogs*. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for putting together such an awesome show, and her friends, family, and partner for supporting her throughout this process. Let's dance!

#### Micah Menezes (Connie)

Micah Menezes is a freshman at UVM from Westborough, Massachusetts. They are incredibly excited to be joining their first show at the Royall Tyler Theatre. They would like to thank all the cast and crew and are excited for their next four years at UVM. They hope you enjoy the show!

#### Elizabeth Oliver (The Moms)

Elizabeth (Liz) Oliver is a senior Health and Society major and Theatre minor at UVM. She is elated to bring you into the magical world of competitive dance in her final performance on the Royall Tyler stage! Elizabeth has previously performed in *Straight White Men* (Stagehand) and *She Kills Monsters* (Evil Gabi). She would like to thank our wonderful director Leila Teitelman, Choreographer Julie Peoples-Clark and Stage Manager Acadia Johnson for their amazing work! Elizabeth would also like to thank her mom for always being the biggest supporter in her life, she wouldn't be herself today without her. She hopes you enjoy this trip down memory lane:)

#### Sam Powers (Dance Captain/Understudy/Dancer)

Sam Powers is grateful to be a part of this production of *Dance Nation* as an understudy and dance captain. This is their first UVM production and what a show to start with! They've mostly done musicals in the past, most recently as Kevin in *The Prom* with Lyric Theatre Company, so *Dance Nation* has been a fun departure from their typical roles. Sam hopes you enjoy the show and, that, if their mom is in the audience, they ask that she refrain from ever discussing the contents of this production with Sam.

#### Who's who on the creative team of Dance Nation

#### Jennifer Bilbo (Costume Designer)

Jennifer has been a costume shop manager, associate and assistant costume designer for theatre, dance, and opera for 20 years. Her education includes a BFA in Theatre from William Carey College and a MFA in Scenography from University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Jennifer was Associate Costume Director for Shakespeare Theatre Company, where she worked with designers such as Catherine Zuber and Linda Cho on over 40 productions. Jennifer was also Costume Shop Coordinator for Santa Fe Opera, where she worked with Constance Hoffman, Ann Hould-Ward, Brigitte Reifenstuel, Sue Wilmington, and Jon Morrell. In NYC, Jennifer was assistant to Murell Horton and Jennifer Moeller, as well as associate designer to Isaac Mizrahi on Mark Morris dance pieces premiering at San Francisco Ballet and Mark Morris Dance Group at Brooklyn Academy of Music. Jennifer was costume shop manager for Marshall University and University of Southern Mississippi. Most recently, Jennifer was shop manager for the Department of Theatre at Dartmouth College for 8 years, where she was grateful to mentor many extraordinary students.

#### Charlie Bolduan (Assistant Stage Manager)

Charlie Bolduan is a sophomore anthropology major from Seattle, Washington. This is his second show at UVM, the first being part of the crew for *Straight White Men* in the fall of 2022.He'd like to thank his brother, Sam, for getting him into theatre all those years ago.

#### Adeline Cota (Dramaturg)

Adeline Cota is a senior student in the College of Arts and Sciences with a major in theatre and a minor in studio art. This is her first experience as a dramaturg, and she is excited to be working on a new aspect of the theatrical process. She has worked onstage and off on many UVM productions and was most recently seen as Erica in *Bright Half Life*. She loves *Dance Nation* and hopes the audience is touched by this deeply relatable show!

#### Evan Dodge (Property Master)

Evan is a 3rd year theatre student at UVM. He has worked on various theatrical pieces in capacities ranging from acting, set/costume design, run crew, and board operation. His work in the props department at RTT has consisted of building a severed cow head, as well as all the props and set dressing you see before you today. The next show he's working on is the University Players production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. He wants to thank you for supporting the arts and coming out to see this incredible show!

#### Acadia Johnson (Production Stage Manager)

Acadia Johnson (She/Her) is a junior Theatre major at UVM. She grew up in the Northwest Corner of CT where she first started working on theatre tech in 6th grade. At UVM, she has stage managed *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Damn the Circumstances*,

Walking On and Senior Capstones for both Theatre and Dance. Acadia is very excited to be working on this show. She would like to thank her family, friends and especially roommates for keeping up with her tech week hours! Enjoy Dance Nation!

#### Maddie Leitch (Assistant Director)

Maddie Leitch is a senior Anthropology/Theater double major from San Anselmo, California. This is her 9th main stage performance that she has been involved in, whether it be on the stage or behind the scenes. She wants to thank the RTT family for being her home away from home for the past four years. She also wants to thank her roommates, family and friends for their never-ending support. Finally, she wants to thank the entire cast and crew of *Dance Nation*, who made her final undergrad collaboration truly the most magical experience in the world. She hopes you enjoy the ride, and to always unleash your inner child!

#### Jackie Lemieux (Lighting Designer)

Jackie Lemieux is a senior at UVM who will be graduating this semester with a double major in Theatre and English, with a minor in Spanish. Jackie is excited and proud to be completing a capstone of the Theatre degree through work as the Lighting Designer of *Dance Nation* and would like to express the utmost gratitude to the incredible production team for the support and hard work throughout the process. Past UVM credits: Lighting Design (*Dancing Uphill* 2022-2023, *Dance Capstones* 2023-2024); Stage Management (*Imogen Says Nothing* (2023), Walking (2022), Dancing Uphill (2022), i <3 my coven (2021), Bat Boy (2023, ASM)). Special thanks to the academic and professional mentors who have supported Jackie throughout this project, including Sara Nelson, Craig Zemsky, and Zeina Salame. Jackie would also like to thank Meg, Sophie, Natalie, Lindsay, Addie, Cat's Meow, and all of the other friends and family who have offered love and support during the past four years spent in pursuit of this degree.

#### Kate Myers (Assistant Stage Manager)

Kate Myers is a second year UVM student majoring in Theatre. She could not have been more grateful to be welcomed onto the stage management team for the first time with such loving arms. Kate was recently on the Royall Tyler Theatre stage as Imogen in *Imogen Says Nothing*. She would like to thank Acadia, Alexis, and Charlie for being the best SM team she could've imagined!!

#### Sara Nelson (Scenic Designer)

Sara Nelson is the resident scenic designer, production manager, and full-time lecturer for the Program in Theatre and Dance here at UVM. In addition to those roles, much of her work is focused on mentoring students through the design and production process. Sara is a member of USITT and and has also presented work on collaboration and the creative process for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education. Selected Design: Popcorn Falls, Desperate Measures (Saint Michael's Playhouse), Imogen Says Nothing, Bright Half Life, Bathoy, Walking, She Kills Monsters, Blue Window, Enemy of The People, Shakespeare In Love, The Normal Heart, The Wolves

(University of Vermont); Big Love, Cabaret, Eurydice (Northern Vermont University); Spring Fling: First Love (F\*It Club); This Time (Workshop presented by Rising Circle Theater Collective); Spring Fling: My Best/Worst Date Ever (NYIT Nom) (F\*It Club); The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek, The Laramie Project (Adelphi University); HMS Pinafore, Grease (Arizona Broadway Theatre). MFA University of Montana.

#### Julie Peoples-Clark (Choreographer)

Julie Peoples-Clark, originally from Baltimore, MD, has been a go-go dancer in a cage, a showgirl in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, a magician's assistant, a dancer in 3 John Waters' films, a touring hoofer on 42nd Street, a tribe member with lots of Hair and a tap-dancing book on television. She is well versed in the work of Rudolf Laban, Irmgard Bartenieff and Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen's Body-Mind Centering. Her areas of expertise are Contemporary Dance, Musical Theatre Dance, Somatic Movement, Yoga and Pilates. Julie is a Full Time Lecturer in the Program of Theatre and Dance at the University of Vermont. Most importantly, she is a mother to an angel, Ella the Great and a magical young boy, Emanuel Blessing.

#### **Alexis Santo** (Assistant Stage Manager)

Alexis (she/her) is a senior Theatre and Music Technology double major from Newington, CT. She has previously worked as the sound designer for UVM's productions of *Imogen Says Nothing* (fall 2023) and *Straight White Men* (fall 2022), as the props master for *Bat Boy: The Musical* (spring 2023), and as the sound board operator for *Blue Window* (fall 2021). She would like to thank all of the cast and crew for making her last production at UVM so memorable!

#### Leila Teitelman (Director)

Leila Teitelman (she/her) is a teaching artist and practitioner from New Hampshire. She holds a B.A. in theater from Connecticut College and an MFA in theatrical writing from Lesley University where she presented her thesis, Mother of all Monsters: How Horror Became a Feminist Genre, on the intersection of femme bodies and the grotesque. Plays include: Awful People Pray (National Playwrights' Conference Semi-Finalist, Princess Grace Fellowship Semi-Finalist, Table Work Press recommendation, Working Title Productions, Clauder Competition NH Winner), Baby Cakes (B-Street Theater New Comedy Festival, The Hearth Theater Co.), and A Place for Us (The Kennedy Center, Boston Theater Marathon). Leila was a 2017/2018 resident playwright at Athena Theater and a 2019/2020 resident playwright of the Inkubator writers group. Leila has worked in Education and Literary offices at Manhattan Theatre Club, New Dramatists, The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, Keene State College and Barrington Stage Company, where she also worked as assistant director and dramaturg on numerous productions. As a performer, she has worked with Vermont Stage, Middlebury Acting Co, David Dorfman Dance, The College Light Opera Company, The Hearth, Roundabout Theater, NYC Fringe and NYC Musical Theater Festivals.

Leila would like to thank her students and colleagues here at UVM for their creative energy and support.

#### Craig Zemsky (Sound Designer)

After receiving a Bachelor's in Theatre and Communications and an MFA in Theatrical Production, Craig has spent most of his adult life working within the theatre community throughout the country. Previous places that he worked were the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA and Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee, WI. While working with Chamber Theatre, Windwood Productions, and The Kennedy Center, Craig was able to tour the country while doing theatre. Fun fact, he has performed a show in every state of the continental US. Craig appreciates the opportunity to sound design at the Royall Tyler. Previous design credits include *Steel Magnolias* and *On the Verge*. While not working in theatre, Craig is hanging out with his family and playing Magic with his son.



#### Faculty & Staff

Julian Barnett	Assistant Professor & Resident Choreographer
Paul Besaw	Professor
Paula Higa	Assistant Professor & Resident Choreographer
	Lecturer
Sara Nelson	Full Time Lecturer & Production Manager
Julie Peoples-Clark	Full Time Lecturer
Zeina Salame	Assistant Professor & Resident Director
	Lecturer
Robert Shimko	Program Head, Theatre and Dance
Leila Teitelman	Full Time Lecturer
Avi Waring	Lecturer
Margo Whitcomb	Lecturer
	Department Administrative Coordinator
	Scene Shop Supervisor
	Marketing and Outreach Coordinator
Craig Zemsky	Sound & Lights Technician – School of the Arts

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Your gift to the University of Vermont School of the Arts Program in Theatre and Dance supports everything we do! Donors help fund production costs for our shows, new equipment and material, student scholarships, and awards. By giving to this fund, you are fueling the creativity of our students and faculty.

Go to uvmfoundation.org to make your contribution now.



### **Upcoming Spring Semester Presentations**

Royall Tyler Theatre 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event
April 12 & 13
Royall Tyler Theatre

### The Senior Dance Majors Capstone Projects

Presentation of capstone projects choreographed and performed by members of the graduating class of seniors in the Dance program.

Performances April 18, 19 & 20 in Cohen Hall

### The Senior Theatre Majors Capstone Projects

Presentation of capstone projects by members of the graduating class of seniors in the Theatre program.

April 26 & 27 in the Royall Tyler Theatre

For additional info go to uvm.edu/cas/theatreanddance