



UMKC Theatre announces season and directors

UMKC Theatre Announces Season

Works by Pierre De Marivaux, Chiara Atik, John Steinbeck, Sarah De Lappe, Wendy Lement

And More Round Out Extraordinary Season of Graduate, Undergraduate and Co-productions

Known for high-quality productions and successful collaborations with Kansas City and nationwide theatre companies and ranked by *Hollywood Reporter* as having the #17 best graduate acting program in the English-speaking world as well as being selected one of the top ten Costume Design and Technology programs in the country, UMKC Theatre announces its 2018-19 season.

“We are thrilled to offer our students and audiences this astounding lineup of plays,” stated Carla Noack, UMKC Theatre Chair, “and we are grateful to our professional co-producers and partners—Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Unicorn Theatre, Coterie Theatre, Kansas City Actors Theatre, The New Theatre & Restaurant, Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, The Fishtank, among others—who exponentially enrich and distinguish UMKC Theatre’s graduate and undergraduate training programs, contributing to a vibrant Kansas City theatre ecosystem.” She continued, “Imagine the synergy as we look to

join forces with the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance over the coming year! There is much to look forward to.”

The 2018-2019 UMKC Theatre season opens in October with an undergraduate production of *Women* by Chiara Atik, directed by Nicole Marie Green. Scott Stackhouse will direct *The Tempest* in an undergraduate production in March, followed by a graduate production of *The Game of Love and Chance* by Pierre De Marivaux, directed by Theodore Swetz. Five co-productions will be presented throughout the season: *Dracula*, adapted by Mitch Brian and directed by John Renshouse with Kansas City Actors Theatre; *Of Mice and Men*, by John Steinbeck, directed by Jason Chanos with Kansas City Repertory Theatre; *The Wolves* by Sarah De Lappe, directed by Heidi Van with the Unicorn Theatre; *Secret Soldiers: Heroines in Disguise* by Wendy Lement, directed by Jeff Church with the Coterie Theatre; and a TBA new work as part of the Origins KC New Play Festival in May.

Undergraduate Productions

Women

By Chiara Atik and directed by Nicole Marie Green

Jo March really thinks she could be the voice of her generation. But being a “little woman” in 1800s New England is just so hard, you know? *Women* is a hilarious, and entertaining mash-up of Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women* in the style HBO’s *Girls*. A contemporary spin on a timeless classic, you’ll never look at these “little women” the same way again.

The production will preview Oct. 5 – 8, open Oct. 10 and run through Oct. 14 at Grant Hall Theatre (5200 Charlotte Street, KCMO 64110).

The Tempest

By William Shakespeare and directed by Scott Stackhouse

A raging storm crashes a ship on a remote island in the sea, igniting a revenge plot twelve years in the making. Sorcery and spirits abound in this epic tale of romance and betrayal. Considered by many to be Shakespeare's farewell to the stage, *The Tempest* explores the path through darkness and isolation to the freedom of forgiveness.

The production will preview March 8 – 11, open March 13 and run through March 17 at Studio 116, Olson PAC (4949 Cherry Street, KCMO 64110).

Playwright Project

Playwrights and directors TBA

April 11- 15

The production will preview April 11, open April 12 and run through April 15 at Grant Hall 105 (5200 Charlotte Street, KCMO 64110).

Graduate Productions

The Game of Love and Chance

By Pierre De Marivaux and directed by Theodore Swetz

Unrequited love, mistaken Identities and the uncontrollable power of love make up the heart of this hysterical romantic comedy. This play will tickle your funny bone as it challenges your heart and mind.

The production will preview April 26 – 29, open May 1 and run through May 5 at Studio 116, Olson PAC (4949 Cherry Street, KCMO 64110).

New Work TBA

As part of OriginKC: New Works Festival

Co-produced with Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Director TBA

The production will preview May 3 – 6, open May 8 and run through May 12 at Spencer Theater, Olson PAC (4949 Cherry Street, KCMO 64110).

Co-Productions

Dracula

Co-produced with Kansas City Actors Theatre

Adapted by Mitch Brian and directed by John Renshouse

Sensuous. Seductive. Sinister. Kansas City Actors Theatre presents its first-ever original production in this fresh adaptation, commissioned by Kansas City Actors Theatre, of Bram Stoker's gothic classic, "Dracula." Produced in partnership with UMKC Theatre, this classic tale of obsession and desire arrives just in time for the Halloween season. Directed by John Renshouse after his record-breaking KCAT production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" last season, "Dracula" promises wickedly delicious fun, thrills, theatrical magic and intense performances.

This production will preview Oct. 12 – 15, open Oct. 17 and run through Oct. 21 at Spencer Theater, Olson PAC (4949 Cherry Street, KCMO 64110). For tickets, please call (816) 235-6222 or visit <http://www.kcactors.org/shows/dracula/>.

Of Mice and Men

Co-produced with Kansas City Repertory Theatre

By John Steinbeck and directed by Jason Chanos

A pair of migrant workers in Depression-era California move from town to town in search of work, and dream of buying land and owning a ranch someday. Straight-shooter George protects Lennie, whose sweet, simple-mindedness is juxtaposed by his

formidable strength. When the two find work on Curly's ranch, a series of tragic events lead to one of the most heartbreaking conclusions in American literature. John Steinbeck's classic text explores the decay of the American dream, and the enduring kindness that bond friends together for life.

With support from the Hall Family Foundation.

This production will preview Oct. 18 – 25, open Oct. 26 and run through Nov. 11 at Copaken Stage

(1 H&R Block Way, KCMO 64105). For tickets, please call (816) 235- 2700 or visit <http://kcrep.org/show/of-mice-and-men>.

The Wolves

Co-produced with Unicorn Theatre

By Sarah De Lappe and directed by Heidi Van

Left Quad. Right Quad. Lunge. A fierce girl's soccer team warms up for games and practice. From the safety of their indoor soccer field, the team kicks around everything from balls to politics. Each one struggles to hang on to her individuality while remaining a part of the group. Take a first-hand look at nine young women exploring who they are and who they want to become in a complicated world.

This production will preview Nov. 28 – 30, open Dec. 1 and run through Dec. 30 at Unicorn Theatre, (3828 Main Street, KCMO 64112). For tickets, please call (816) 531-7529 or visit <https://www.unicorntheatre.org/?page=boxoffice> .

Secret Soldiers: Heroines in Disguise

Co-produced with the Coterie Theatre

By Wendy Lement and directed by Jeff Church

True accounts of four women who, for different reasons, served

as men in the Civil War. Woven into this unique and interactive play: early suffrage movement as well as the formation of the Massachusetts 54th Regiment (the first African American regiment in U.S. history) and Harriet Tubman.

This production will preview Jan. 22 – 24, open Jan. 25 and run through Feb. 10 at Coterie Theatre (Crown Center, 2450 Grand Ave. KCMO 64108). For tickets, please call (816) 474-6552 or visit https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/redirect_full/34948.

Ticket Information

Single ticket adult prices are \$20 for any performance. All UMKC faculty and staff tickets are \$13 and UMKC student tickets are \$10 for any performance (limit one per ID). Senior (60+) ticket prices are \$15. Groups of 10 or more are \$13 each. For tickets, call the Central Ticket Office at (816) 235-6222 or purchase online [here](#).

Ticket sales for the co-productions are available through Kansas City Actors Theatre, Kansas City Repertory Theatre, Unicorn Theatre and Coterie Theatre box offices. Ticket sales for *Dracula* with Kansas City Actors Theatre are available through Central Ticket Office.

Parking

Free event parking for Olson Performing Arts Center is on level 5 of the Cherry Street parking structure. Park near the Northeast Tower and use the skywalk to the theatres. The Olson Performing Arts Center is at 4949 Cherry Street on the UMKC campus.

UMKC Theatre has been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* among the top graduate theatre training programs in the country. Graduates from UMKC Theatre are invited to the most prestigious New York and Los Angeles professional reviews and auditions to exhibit their work and secure positions with

national and international performing companies. We build bridges. We assist the creative student in making the journey to becoming a creative professional. The practice of the department is to vigorously educate students in the many arts, crafts and traditions of theatre, and provide a basis for future careers in the creative industries. Our program offers intensive hands-on experience while at the same time fostering analytical and contextual skills. The practical experience of theatre-making occurs not only within the performing venues of UMKC, but also in professional theatres in Kansas City. Theatre is a passion. We seek it, we train for it and we embody it. UMKC Theatre is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Theatre (NAST) and the University/Resident Theatre Association (U/RTA).

The University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), one of four University of Missouri campuses, is a public university serving more than 14,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students. UMKC engages with the community and economy based on a three-part mission: visual and performing arts, health sciences, and urban engagement. UMKC has been designated as Missouri's Campus for the Arts. More information is available online at www.umkctheatre.org.

2018-2019 UMKC Theatre Season

Play	Director	Venue	Preview	Run
<i>Women</i>	Nicole Marie Green	Grant Hall Theatre	10/5 – 10/8	10/10- 10/14
<i>The Tempest</i>	Scott Stackhouse	PAC Studio 116	3/8 – 3/11	3/13 – 3/17
<i>Playwright Project</i>	TBA	Grant Hall 105	4/11	4/12 – 4/15
<i>The Game of Love and Chance</i>	Theodore Swetz	Pac Studio 116	4/26 – 4/29	5/1 – 5/5

<i>New Work TBD</i>	TBA	Spencer Theater, Olson PAC	5/3 – 5/6	5/8 – 5/12
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UMKC Theatre 2018-2019 Co-Productions

<i>Dracula</i>	John Renshouse	Spencer Theater, Olson PAC	10/12- 10/15	10/17- 10/21
<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	Jason Chanos	Copaken Stage, KC Rep	10/18-10/25	10/26 – 11/11
<i>The Wolves</i>	Heidi Van	Unicorn Theatre	11/28– 11/30	12/1– 12/30
<i>Secret Soldiers: Heroines in Disguise</i>	Jeff Church	Coterie Theatre	1/22 – 1/24	1/25 – 2/10