



The University of Texas at Austin
Theatre and Dance
College of Fine Arts

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

PRESENTS

MATAWAN

BY DAN CAFFREY

A HAUNTING THRILLER ABOUT WHAT LURKS BENEATH THE SURFACE

OCTOBER 10-21, 2018

AT THE OSCAR G. BROCKETT THEATRE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Matawan* by Dan Caffrey, October 10-21, 2018 at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

In the summer of 1916, a series of fatal shark attacks terrorized the New Jersey Shore. Further inland, a polio epidemic plagued Philadelphia, while the cloud of World War I loomed over the Nation. As the forces of nature, disease and war close in, characters who struggle to change must face a creature whose evolution has led to millions of years of survival. Spanning several cities, the infinite depths of the ocean and the point of view of the shark herself, *Matawan* examines how our internal anxieties are often just as terrifying as our national catastrophes.

“At its heart, *Matawan* is a play about fear,” shares director Alice Stanley. “These fears manifest in different ways – the polio epidemic, the threat of World War I, the rapid progress of industrialization...yet they almost never manifest as fear of the shark, which turns out to be the primary threat to many of the characters. Their efforts to gain control and avoid other terrors drives them into the water, where they meet their end. So much of the conflict in our world today stems from having these anxieties and by exploring the essence of fear theatrically, we hope to shine a light on how much of our lives are actually dictated by it.”

Director [Alice Stanley](#) is a playwright, director and founder of Cohesion Theatre Company in Baltimore, MD. Stanley won Best Director from *Baltimore City Paper's* "Best of Baltimore" (2016), *The Bad Oracle* and *DC Metro Theatre Arts* and received the Mayor's Individual Artist Award. They were featured in *The New York Times* and *USA Today* for their work on a grunge-era, gender-bending production of *Hamlet*. Stanley's full-length play, *Sally McCoy* was originally produced by Cohesion Theatre Company where it was nominated for a Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and will be produced this fall by The Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA.

“We, as humans, tend to be dismissive of an animal's instincts and behavior when, in reality, they often function at a much higher level than we do,” explains playwright Dan Caffrey. “A shark does not act on fear; it acts on instinct. In this underwater world, we see a being that is entirely willing to adapt and do whatever is needed in order to survive. This piece explores fear as a universal human emotion and looks at how current political, international and health concerns shape our everyday existence.”

Dan Caffrey is a M.F.A. in Playwriting candidate at The University of Texas at Austin. Prior to moving to Austin, Caffrey was in Chicago where his work was produced by various companies, including The Ruckus, the side project theatre company and Tympanic Theatre where he served as the artistic director from 2007 to 2015. His original play, *Matawan*, was a finalist for the Eugene O'Neill National Playwrights Conference (2013) and premiered at Chicago's Athenaeum Theatre (2015). He has also written for *The A.V. Club*, *Pitchfork*, *Vox* and *Consequence of Sound*, where he co-hosts *The Losers' Club: A Stephen King Podcast*.

Matawan features an all-star cast of University of Texas at Austin students, including Emily Garcia (Old Blue), Christian Scheller (Dr. Eugene Vansant), Juleeane Villareal (Louisa Vansant), Devin Ramirez (Charles Vansant), Shahil Bhutani (Robert Engle), Jayla Ball (Charles Bruder), Brooks Laney (Watson Stanley Fisher), Grace Bohn (Luella Stillwell), Cat Palacios (Lester Stillwell), Shane Colwell (Captain Cottrell), Kyle Cordova (George Burlew), Khali Sykes (Mary Anderson) and Guinevere Govea, as well as an acting ensemble, including Rebecca East, Anapaula Guajardo, Shannon Homan and Morgan Riddle, and a movement ensemble featuring Alexandra Armbruster, Kialond Bronson-Smith, Kathleen Marie Guerrero, Nick Saldivar, Paola Montserrat Santibanez, Carlie Schoultz, Tori Schulze and Azari Sumbler.

The production's creative team includes Dan Caffrey (Playwright), Alice Stanley (Director), Zoe Anderson (Scenic Designer), Scott Bussey (Technical Director), Laura Epperson

(Community Engagement Lead), Stephanie Fisher (Costume Designer), Helen Hetrick (Stage Manager), Isaac Iskra (Choreographer), Qi Jiajing (Lighting Designer), Sam Lipman (Sound Designer and Composer), Adam Miller-Batteau (Fight and Intimacy Director), Kirstin Perkins (Dramaturg), Jake Stein (Sound Engineer) and Mingxiang Ya (Projection Designer).

For more information about *Matawan*, please visit JoinTheDrama.org

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

There will be a post-performance discussion with members of the community engagement team immediately following the 7:30 p.m. performances on October 11 and 18 in the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre.

CALENDAR LISTING

October 10-21, 2018 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *Matawan* at the Oscar G. Brockett Theatre (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking

Performance times are October 10 at 7:30 p.m. (Preview), October 11-12, 16-20 at 7:30 p.m. and October 14, 20-21 at 2:00 p.m. (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 student) are on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and all Texas Box Office outlets, online at JoinTheDrama.org, or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO. Tickets for the preview performance on October 10 (\$10 adult, \$5 student) are available at the Bass Concert Hall Box Office and F. Loren Winship Building Box Office. Box Office locations and hours: theatredance.utexas.edu/ticketing

ABOUT TEXAS THEATRE AND DANCE

The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance is a world-class educational environment that serves as the ultimate creative incubator for the next generation of artists, thinkers and leaders in theatre and performance.

ALSO THIS SEASON

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
Fall For Dance
November 6-11, 2018

The Merchant of Venice
By William Shakespeare
November 14-December 2, 2018

The Women of _____ (a song not song)
By I-Chia Chiu
February 13-17, 2019

Dance Repertory Theatre presents
Fortitude
March 5-15, 2019

UTNT (UT New Theatre)
March 14-31, 2019

The Cohen New Works Festival
April 15-19, 2019

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