



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

**For immediate release:**

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS**

***UTNT (UT NEW THEATRE)***

**March 4-13, 2020**

**AT THE F. LOREN WINSHIP BUILDING**

**FEATURING NEW WORKS FROM RISING PLAYWRIGHTS**

**PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR KJ SANCHEZ**

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ALEXANDRA BASSIAKOU SHAW**

The University of Texas Department of Theatre and Dance at Austin presents ***UTNT (UT New Theatre)***, March 4-13, 2020 in multiple locations throughout the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. Established in 2007 by nationally renowned playwright Steven Dietz, ***UTNT (UT New Theatre)*** is an annual showcase of newly developed works for the American stage from playwrights of the Department of Theatre and Dance's master of fine arts program and Michener Center for Writers. Now in its thirteenth year, ***UTNT*** brings to the stage compelling works by ascending playwrights.

"It is an honor to present these new works, written by third-year M.F.A. in Playwriting candidates," shares producing artistic directors KJ Sanchez and Alexandra Bassiakou Shaw. "We've been fortunate this year to have eight galvanizing writers – Dan Caffrey, I.B.

Hopkins, Minghao Tu, Cecelia Raker, Paul Kruse, Daniel Tejera, Lane Michael Stanley and Jess Shoemaker – each with wildly diverse aesthetic ambitions. More than any other year their scripts called for unique production concepts, development processes and presentation styles. Given the scope and purpose of their works, we decided to program the plays in a festival format. These plays have never existed before and are the products of insight, collaboration, craft, dedication and visions for how we share stories in this changing world.”

The university’s Department of Theatre and Dance and Michener Center for Writers have been heralded nationally as incubators for new work (*American Theatre*). Notable alumni of these programs include Lisa D’Amour (2011 Pulitzer Prize Finalist, *Detroit*), Abe Koogler (*Fulfillment Center*, Manhattan Theatre Club, 2017), Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig (2011 Wasserstein Award Recipient), George Brant (2008 Keene Prize for Literature, *Elephant’s Graveyard*), Kimber Lee (2013-2014 Lark Fellow) and Kirk Lynn (2011 USA Fellow in Theatre Arts).

The 2020 *UTNT (UT New Theatre)* plays include:

***Sow and Suckling***

**By Dan Caffrey**

**Directed by Liz Fisher**

**March 6 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. and March 7 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Lab Theatre | F. Loren Winship Building**

30 years after the events of *Lord of the Flies*, the book’s characters have grown comfortably into their 40s – or so they think. After a Christmas Eve dinner goes horribly wrong, the violence from their youth threatens to overrun their families and carefully constructed lives. At turns a riff on a classic piece of literature, an extremely dark comedy and a middle-aged horror story, *Sow and Suckling* posits that repression only leads to further savagery.

***Tjipetir: A Search History***

**By I.B. Hopkins**

**Directed by Jess Shoemaker**

**March 5-6, 8, 13 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Acting Studio (WIN 2.180) | F. Loren Winship Building**

An uptight Etymologist finds herself on a warped detective case when pieces of rubber begin washing up on beaches all over the world. The single word inscribed on each of them, “TJIPETIR,” leads her on a dizzying expedition into submarine warfare, a Javanese rubber plantation, the history of the internet, an octopus with a vendetta and a dark family secret.

***A Fisful of Trespassing***

**By Minghao Tu**

**Directed by Anna Skidis Vargas**

**March 5, 7, 11 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Lab Theatre | F. Loren Winship Building**

"I'm gonna take all the naked cowboys in Texas till I find myyy naked cowboy." - Clint-John

Two guys in a totalitarian country fancy the American Old West. When a shipwreck leaves them stranded on an isolationist island, these wannabe cowboys do what the old Hollywood cowboys did: chase after love, freedom and myths—only this time, with zany shenanigans. Minghao Tu's *A Fistful of Trespassing* is a farcical fever dream—bubbles burst like dynamite.

***Bog Butter***

**By Cecelia Raker**

**Directed by Khristián Méndez Aguirre**

**March 4, 12 at 7:30 p.m., March 7 at 5:00 p.m. and March 8 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Acting Studio (WIN 2.180) | F. Loren Winship Building**

When A tries to bond with her sister B over their shared obsession with the fermented ancient butter that's found buried in peat bogs, she digs up more than she bargained for: not only the end of the whole polluted, broken world, but also the dairymaids of the deep past and the far future — and some vulnerability she might not be ready to handle.

***Not Omaha***

**By Paul William Kruse**

**Directed by Lane Michael Stanley**

**March 4 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 2:00 p.m.**

**Lab Theatre | F. Loren Winship Building**

*Not Omaha* is a surreal, darkly odd story about the end of the world in a small town. What if the apocalypse was like the death of a parent – natural, strange and sometimes beautiful?

***Toros\****

**By Danny Tejera**

**Directed by Mike Steele**

**March 5, 11 at 7:30 p.m. and March 8 at 5:00 p.m.**

**WIN 1.134 | F. Loren Winship Building**

A garage. It is the grimy underbelly of an otherwise luxurious mansion in Madrid. Three friends—no longer children but not quite adults—and one dying golden retriever waste away, one Friday night at a time. They bob along to techno, get high, get drunk, make plans, get angry, lose interest, spill things, shit-talk their friends and ollie over skateboards. They try to wield what little power they have—or maybe it's a lot—over life and over each other.

***rain falls special on me\****

**By Lane Michael Stanley**

**Directed by Andrea Hart**

**March 8 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**WIN 1.134 | F. Loren Winship Building**

When it rains in Austin, Texas, the best place to stay dry through the night is behind the theater. Weather and circumstance bring together Mikey, Snake, Miss Candace, Motor, Mac and Julie - all of whom are on the street for different reasons, here now to navigate their relationships, dreams and often, survival.

***The Book of Orpah\****  
**By Jess Shoemaker**  
**Directed by Andrea Hart**  
**March 7 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**WIN 1.134 | F. Loren Winship Building**

*In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. (Ruth 1:1)*

*The Book of Orpah* is a rich poem-play that traces the love of three women across their collective history, grappling with the impact of generational trauma, the nature of God and whether it is possible to reach one another across boundaries.

For more information on *UTNT (UT New Theatre)*, please visit [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org)

*\*indicates a given title will be performed as a reading. All readings are free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.*

*All titles, dates and venues are subject to change.*

## **CALENDAR LISTING**

**March 4-13, 2020 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *UTNT (UT New Theatre)* at the F. Loren Winship Drama Building (300 E. 23rd St.). Performances will take place in the Lab Theatre (*Sow and Suckling, A Fistful of Trespassing, Not Omaha*) and Acting Studio – WIN 2.180 (*Tjipetir: A Search History, Bog Butter*); all readings will take place in WIN 1.134 (*Toros, rain falls special on me, Book of Orpah*). A map of the campus: <http://theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking>**

Tickets for performances in the Lab Theatre and Acting Studio (WIN 2.180) – *Sow and Suckling, Tjipetir: A Search History, A Fistful of Trespassing, Bog Butter, Not Omaha* (\$15 adult, \$12 UT faculty and staff, \$10 student) are now on sale at authorized ticket outlets, which include the Bass Concert Hall Box Office, most H-E-B stores and all Texas Box Office outlets, online [JoinTheDrama.org](http://JoinTheDrama.org), or by calling (512) 477-6060 or (800) 982-BEVO.

Tickets for the readings in WIN 1.134 – *Toros, rain falls special on me, Book of Orpah* (Free, first-come, first-served. Seating is limited.)

## **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**

***Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet***

**By Tarell Alvin McCraney**

February 26-March 8, 2020

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

***Sense and Sensibility***

**Adapted for the stage by Joseph Hanreddy and J.R. Sullivan**

April 8-19, 2020

B. Iden Payne Theatre

**Dance Repertory Theatre presents**

***(R)evolution***

April 15-26, 2020

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

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