



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 2-12, 2017**

**AT THE B. IDEN PAYNE THEATRE**

**FEATURING NEW WORKS FROM RISING PLAYWRIGHTS**

**GONDAL**

**Written by Kimberly Belflower / Directed by Adam Sussman**

**SLUMBER PARTY**

**Written by Elizabeth Doss / Co-Directed by Cara Phipps and Elizabeth Doss**

**THE BIGOT**

**Written by William Glick / Directed by Hannah Wolf**

**GALACTIC ORPHANS**

**Written by Megan Tabaque / Directed by Graham Schmidt**

The University of Texas Department of Theatre and Dance at Austin presents ***UTNT (UT New Theatre)***, March 2-12, 2017 at the B. Iden Payne Theatre. 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 tenth year, *UTNT* brings to the stage compelling works by **Kimberly Belflower, Elizabeth Doss, William Glick and Megan Tabaque.**

“At the heart of *UTNT (UT New Theatre)*, is a simple notion: the present moment has not been written. The four M.F.A. playwrights represented in *UTNT 2017* seek to capture, engage and impart their own unique and astonishing reaction to the time we are living in. New plays honor the art form not through flattery - but by deepening and disrupting it,” shares Steven Dietz, University of Texas at Austin professor and *UTNT* curator. “We are eager to share the brash, bold and wildly entertaining visions of these playwrights with you. Tomorrow’s plays are at *UTNT* today.”

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*), 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 2017 *UTNT (UT New Theatre)* plays, curated by Liz Engelman and Steven Dietz, include:

***Gondal***

**By Kimberly Belflower**

**Directed by Adam Sussman**

**March 3, 7 at 7:30 p.m., March 11 at 2:00 p.m.**

In 1832, the Brontë sisters create a savage imaginary world that predates their classic novels, while in 2015, three teenage girls become obsessed with the internet horror figure, Slender Man. Fantasy eclipses reality and betrayals lead to violence.

Kimberly Belflower comes to Austin by way of New York City where she developed new plays with Primary Stages and Less Than Rent Theatre, as well as conceived and directed work for 54 Below. *Teen Girl FANTasies* (co-written with Megan Tabaque) premiered at the 2015 Cohen New Works Festival and was nominated for an Austin Critics' Table Award for Best New Play. Belflower's play with original folk music, *The Use of Wildflowers*, has been workshopped in Austin and Brooklyn and her Southern family drama, *Chronic Fatigue*, received a 2015 developmental production with Front Porch Arts Collective in Greenville, South Carolina. Her play *Lost Girl* was recently produced at The University of Texas at Austin.

***Slumber Party***

**By Elizabeth Doss**

**Co-Directed by Cara Phipps and Elizabeth Doss**

**March 9, 11 at 7:30 p.m. and March 5 at 2:00 p.m.**

Three teen girls coerce one another into a suicide pact to end their meaningless existence. On a mountainside in New Mexico, wonder transcends their tragedy as they find new life by leaving the world behind.

Elizabeth Doss writes, performs and directs in Austin, Texas. She has worked with many theatre companies including: ZACH Theatre (*Present Laughter*), Physical Plant (*Not Clown*, which toured to Soho Rep), Salvage Vanguard (*Cry Pitch Carrols* and *Americamisfit*), Rude Mechs (*Dionysus in '69*, which toured to Princeton University and New York Live Arts; *B. Beaver Animation* and *Fixing Timon of Athens*) and Theatre En Bloc (*The Totalitarians*). Doss has also created several interactive, site-specific literature installations for the Fusebox Festival including: *Writer's Room*, *Road Show: 4 Way Stop* and *100 Year Flood*. She is a founding member of the theatre collective paper chairs, which has produced her original musicals, *Murder Ballad Murder Mystery* (toured Marfa, San Antonio, Fort Worth and the New Orleans Fringe Festival) and *Hill Country Underbelly*, and for which she co-directed *Woodwork* and *The Suicide*. Paper chairs has also produced her original plays *Mast* and *Poor Herman*.

### ***The Bigot***

**By William Glick**

**Directed by Hannah Wolf**

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

When Simon Levinson accuses his father of bigotry, he must confront a series of larger challenges, including the polarization of American politics and how to make his boyfriend love him. Taking place over the course of the Obama years, the play explores what we gain and lose when society progresses and asks us to answer the question, "Who is the true bigot?"

William Glick's plays include *Kin Folk* (World Premiere The New Colony, 2016), *Wilma* (PlayPenn Semi-Finalist, 2016), *Faggot Dolls* (Workshop Production Cohen New Works Festival, 2015) and *The Winter Farm* (National Playwright's Conference Semi-Finalist.) He was born and raised in South Florida and then moved to the midwest to study politics and theatre at the University of Chicago. After graduating, he worked in Chicago as a playwright, director and an assistant dramaturg at Steppenwolf and Northlight theaters.

### ***Galactic Orphans***

**By Megan Tabaque**

**Directed by Graham Schmidt**

**March 2, 5, 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

With no parents, not enough Doritos and a little too much vodka in their Sprite, Ri and Ted reunite a year after graduating high school for an all-night Archangel 3 video gaming marathon. But Ted's little sister, Cory, won't let "Guy's Night" happen without a fight. In 24 hours, Ri, Cory and Ted work together to save the war-torn Archangel galaxy but may not be able to save each other.

Megan Tabaque is a writer and actor from Palm Harbor, Florida. She is currently pursuing an M.F.A. at The University of Texas at Austin where she is a Michener Fellow of

playwriting and fiction. She is a 2015 Austin Critics' Nominee for Best New Play, a Kundiman Fellow for fiction and Sewanee Writers' Conference scholarship recipient.

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

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**March 2-12, 2017 – The University of Texas at Austin Department of Theatre and Dance presents *UTNT (UT New Theatre)* at B. Iden Payne Theatre** (300 E. 23rd St.), located in the F. Loren Winship Drama Building. A map of the campus: <http://theatredance.utexas.edu/about/location-directions-parking>

Performances run March 2-12 and vary by title. Tickets (\$26 adult, \$21 UT faculty and staff, \$15 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.

### **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

#### ***Momentum***

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

February 15-26, 2017

#### ***UTNT (UT New Theatre)***

Curated by Liz Engelman and Steven Dietz

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

March 2-12, 2017

#### ***The Cohen New Works Festival***

***Presented by Broadway Bank***

April 10-14, 2017

#### ***Luna***

By Ramón Esquivel

Oscar G. Brockett Theatre

April 20-23, 2017

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