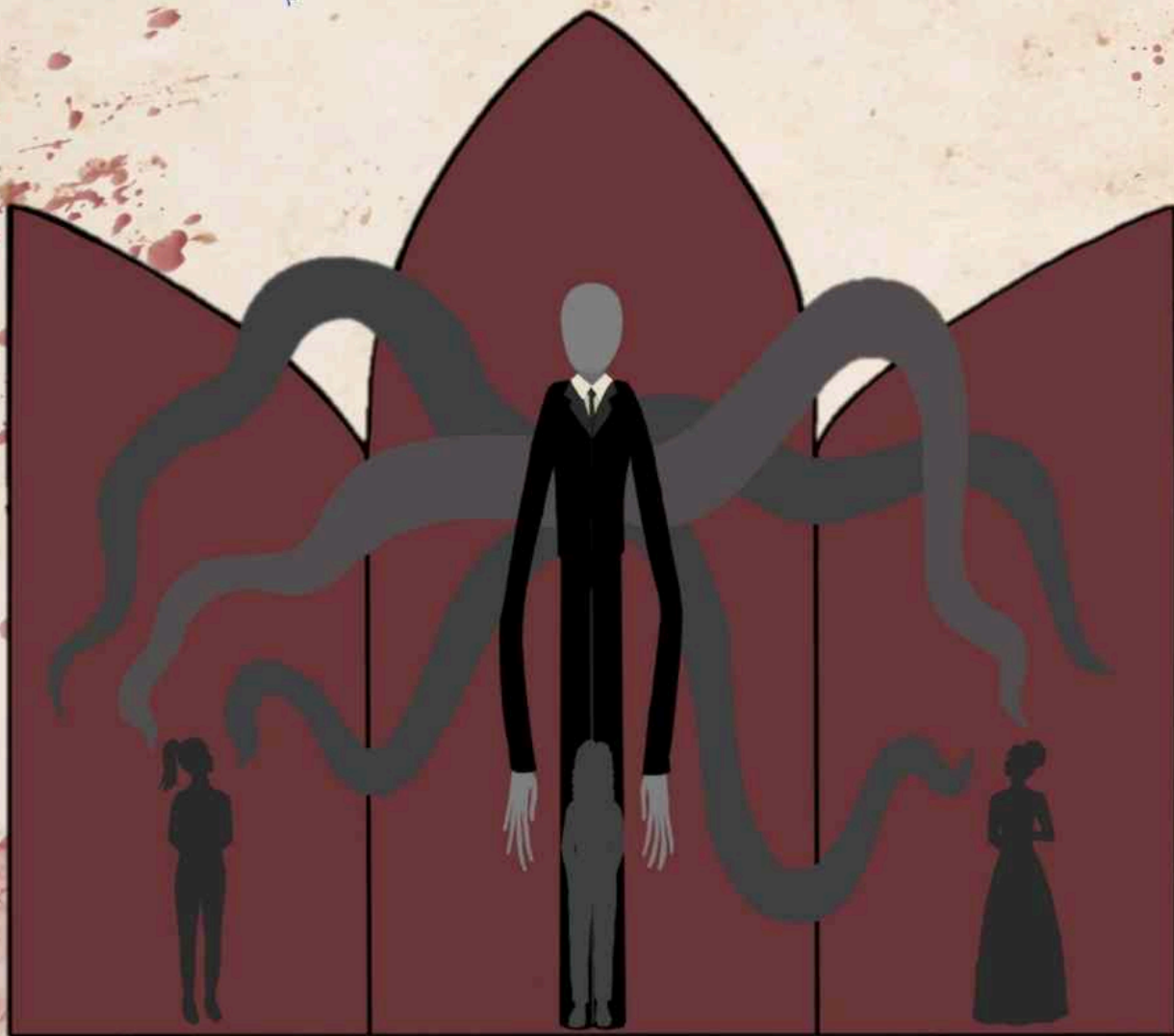


LOVECHILD
THEATER COMPANY

& ATLANTIC ACTING SCHOOL PRESENT:



GONDA

BY KIMBERLY BELFLOWER

DIRECTED BY SANCHEZ SANCHEZ
ASSISTANT DIRECTED BY ESTHER KOHL

APRIL 28 @ 7:30

APRIL 29 @ 2:30 & 7:30

ATLANTIC STAGE 2

330 WEST 16TH ST

CAST



Jameal Bailey
Charlotte Brontë



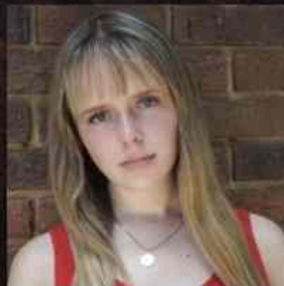
Katherine Boston
Lainey



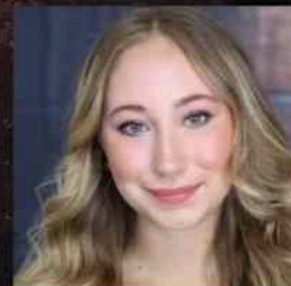
Shannon Rose Connolly
Slender man



Solomon Jackson-Hardy
Branwell Brontë



JoHannah James
Emily Brontë



Miranda Kelly
Amber



Tudor Postolache
Luke



Maura Rygg
Kimberly



Kate Shea Saumell
Vanessa



Laura Noelle Silva
Anne Brontë

CREW

Sánchez Sánchez
Director

Esther Kohl
Assistant Director

Anna McCarthy
Stage Manager

Alexia Navarro
Choreography/
Hair & Makeup

Bella Choy
Production Manager

Abby Erff/Nadya Mojica
Costume Design

Carly Rubin
Lighting Design

Kealani Petito
Sound Design

Jackson Penfield/Kal Brutlag
Scenic Design

Paola Joyce-Velez/Dakota
Bobadilla
Props

Jamie Tierney
House Manager

Sophia DiPaolo/JoHannah James
Artistic Directors

Jameal Bailey (Charlotte Bronte): (he/him) AAS: Edmund, Summertime; U/S Eddie, *A View From The Bridge*; Walter, *Failure to Communicate*. Jameal is a Junior studying drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is very excited to return to Stage 2 this time as a member of the LOVECHILD Theater Company!! Jameal would like to thank his friends, family, acting teachers, and the entire creative team of LOVECHILD Theater Company.

Dakota Bobadilla (Props Team): (he/him) Dakota is a Junior at NYU Tisch as a drama major with a minor in producing. He spent his primary training with Atlantic, took a semester abroad to study Shakespeare at RADA, and is now back home with his lovely ensemble LOVECHILD Theater Company. Some of his most recent credits include: Man, *Be A Better Lady* (NYU Film), Albany, *King Lear* (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts), and Vice Principal Panch, *The Spelling Bee* (Atlantic Acting School). This is Dakota's first time working on props for a theatrical production which he has found to be another exciting creative path. He would like to thank his family, friends, and of course those in LOVECHILD Theater Company for constantly encouraging him to do what he loves.

Katherine Boston (Lainey): (she/her) AAS: Mimi, *Summertime*; Compositor /u/s Rebecca; *The Book of Will*. Regional: Ensemble/Youth Dance Captain, *The Wizard of Oz*; Teen Fiona/Peter Pan, *Shrek Jr.*; u/s Jane Banks and Ensemble, *Mary Poppins*; and Molly, *Annie*. Other theatre credits include: Katie, *Love More: A New Musical* (Workshop); Dorothy Gale, *The Wizard of Oz* (Waterville Opera House); Young Fiona, *Shrek*; Jane Banks, *Mary Poppins* (Waterville Opera House); and Bielke, *Fiddler on the Roof* (Waterville Opera House). Katherine is a Junior studying drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is ecstatic to be returning to Stage 2 this time as a member of LOVECHILD Theater Company! Katherine would like to thank her family, friends, and the entire creative team of LOVECHILD Theater Company for all their love. XOXO Scary Kitties!

Kal Brutlag (Set Design Team): (she/ her) was born two feet long at Kaiser Permanente hospital in Sacramento, California. Raised in Orange County and Los Angeles, California, Kal relocated to New York City to study drama at NYU Tisch School of The Arts. Kal began acting in productions in high school after quitting the track team. After being bitten by the performance bug, she traded in her Nike Pegasus sneakers for 1.5 inch character shoes. Kal is stoked to be a part of the *Gondal* set design team!!

Bella Choy (Manager/Co-General Manager): (she/her) is proud to be LOVECHILD's Production Manager/Co-General Manager. She recently played Schwarzy in *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and Ralph Crane in *The Book of Will*. She wants to thank her wonderful company for all the hard work they've put in!

Shannon Rose Connolly (Slenderman/Marketing Head): (she/her) is over the moon to be a part of LOVECHILD Theater Co. and to be playing Slenderman. Recently she has performed as Maria in *Summertime*, 1st immigration officer/ Beatrice (u/s) in *A View From The Bridge*, and Palmer in *A New George*. Shannon is forever grateful to the most incredible family in the world, her inspiring teachers at Atlantic Acting School, and wonderful friends for their constant support and encouragement. Additionally, Shannon would like to give a special thanks to the twins from the shining, pennywise, and captain hook for scaring her enough as a child to ultimately inspire her to be the creepiest version of herself. Love you all! @shannonroseconnolly

Sophia DiPaolo (Artistic Director): (she/her) is a senior at NYU, graduating in May with a BFA in Drama. She is thrilled to be Co-Artistic Director of LOVECHILD Theater Company. She is so excited to be a part of this amazing company team and production. She would like to thank her family, friends, fellow company members, and her dog Louise for constantly supporting her and her theatrical pursuits. @sophie.dipaolo

Abigail Erff (Costumes Head): (she/her) is so proud of her fellow company members, aka second family, on the production of *Gondal*. Abigail is honored to be Costume Head, as this is her first time doing costuming. Abigail has been in two productions at The Atlantic Acting School so far as Beatrice in *A View From The Bridge* and Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She sends love and thanks to all of her company members and family for their support. Metal. Enjoy the show! @abbyerff

Paola Goyco-Velez (Head of Props): (she/ her) is a Puerto Rican actor, singer, and dancer! She moved to New York in 2019 to pursue her BFA in drama at NYU Tisch. Some of her credits include Atlantic's One-Act play festival playing Luciana in *A New George*, and Miss Scarlet in *CLUE* at Little Victory Theater. She is now head of props for *Gondal* and soon will be making her Off-Broadway debut as Iris in *The Lesbian Play* in June at the Triad Theater! @Paola_goyco

JoHannah James (Emily Bronte/Artistic Director): (she/her) held *The Book of Will*... She was one of the *Men on Boats*... You know her... You love her... It's JoHannah! She doesn't have much to say but would like to give a shout out to the Jameses, the Kicklighters, and the ghosts that spoke to her when she was a child. Y'all made it happen. @johannahjames

Solomon Jackson- Hardy (Branwell Bronte): (he/him) Atlantic Acting School: Chip Tolentino in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Isaac Jaggard/Ed in *The Book of Will*. Solomon is a senior studying drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is honored to be a part of *Gondal* by Kimberly Belflower!

Miranda Kelly (Amber): (she/her) AAS: Natalie/Barbara, *Summertime*; 2nd immigration officer/ Catherine (u/s), *A View From The Bridge*. Miranda is a junior studying drama at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She is absolutely thrilled to be a part of LOVECHILD Theater Company's first ever production!! Yay!! Miranda is so grateful for her fabulous cast members and the wonderful creative team that is bringing this show to life. She would also like to give shoutouts to her family and friends who she loves so so much. Stay wild!!

Esther Kohl (Assistant Director): (she/her) is an Actor, Director, and Songwriter currently in her senior year at NYU Tisch studying Drama. She is overjoyed to sink her teeth into Kimberly Belflower's *Gondal* for LOVECHILD Theater Company's debut. Through theater, Esther encourages us to confront our fears and connect with one another. Esther would like to thank the company for their continued commitment to the story and each other. Theater roles at the Atlantic Acting School include: Tessa, *Summertime*; William Jaggard/Elizabeth u/s, *The Book of Will*; Philomele, *The Love of the Nightingale*.

Anna McCarthy (Stage Manager/ Co-General Manager): (she/her) is honored and thrilled to be making her stage managerial debut with this production!! Past Atlantic credits include bowling a 300 as Louis in *A View From the Bridge*, and experiencing perfect syzygy as Rona Lisa Peretti in *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. She has so much love for the company and is unbelievably proud of the work done by all of the lovely slendermen/spiders/scary kitties both on and off stage. She would like to thank the ghosts that spoke to JoHannah James when she was a child.

Nadya Mojica (Costumes): (she/her) is a Filipino actress currently working towards a BFA in Drama with a minor in Educational Theatre at New York University! She is deeply interested in investigating the human psyche through various forms and tools of storytelling. She's had so much fun in LOVECHILD Theater Co. and is so excited to present the collective's work!



Alexia Navarro (Choreographer/ Hair and Makeup): (they/them) past credits include roles in *A Chorus Line*, *42nd Street*, *Company*, *She Loves Me*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (William Barfée). Born and raised in Las Vegas, NV, Alexia is a dancer, actor, and musician in their senior year of studying drama at NYU Tisch. They are absolutely thrilled to be choreographing for the first time with LOVECHILD Theater Co., and are eternally grateful to the cast for noodling around with them. They'd like to thank their peers and family for their unwavering support, and two cats for the choreography inspiration.

Alex O'Connor (Community Liaison): (he/him) is stoked to be LOVECHILD Theater Company's community liaison. He most recently played Gunter in *Summertime*. Alex wants to thank his mom and friends for being by his side and pushing him to be a better person everyday.

Kealani Petito (Sound Design/Marketing Head): (she/her) is an actor and creative artist based in New York City. She will be graduating from NYU Tisch School of the Arts this May with her BFA in Drama and a minor in Business of Entertainment, Media, & Technology. Atlantic Acting School credits include Catherine in *A View From The Bridge* (dir. Brandon Michael Nase) and John Colton Sumner in *Men On Boats* (dir. Tai Thompson) This summer, she will be attending the British American Drama Academy's Midsummer In Oxford program. She has loved doing sound design for this show and has the utmost gratitude for the entire cohort. Special thanks and shoutout to Erin Bednarz for mentoring on all things sound design.

Jackson Penfield (Set Design Head): (he/him) Jackson Penfield is the head of scenic design, he is excited for you to see the sets, and after you do that, he doesn't mind if you just head home.

Tudor Postolache (Luke): (he/him) James, *Summertime* (Atlantic Theater Company); Barfee, *Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Wildwood Summer Theater); Puck, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); Ensemble, *Henry IV* (Chesapeake Shakespeare Company); Peaseblossom, *Midsummer Night's Dream* (Tisch Main Stage). Along with the Atlantic Acting School he has also received training from both Stonestreet Studios and Experimental Theater Company. Finishing his junior year at NYU Tisch, he is overjoyed to rejoin his old cohort with the production of *Gondal* by Kimberly Belflower. To his LOVECHILD siblings: y'all stay weird, stay wild.

Carly Rubin (Lighting Design/Marketing Head): (she/her) is a Senior at NYU graduating in May with her BFA in Drama and her BS in Educational Theatre. She is so excited to be designing lights for *Gondal* and making her "lighting debut" with this fantastic show. Carly is doing dialect and vocal coaching for the show as well, and she is on the marketing team for the cohort's new theater company, LOVECHILD! In the fall, Carly is entering NYU's Graduate Vocal Performance & Pedagogy Masters Program in which she will become a certified voice teacher! Carly wants to thank her family, friends, and loved ones for their constant love and support. She hopes you enjoy the show!! @carlyrubin

Maura Rygg (Kimberly/Community Liaison): (she/her) Once upon a time, in a little town called Irwin, PA, Maura wished upon a star and nothing happened. After moving to New York to attend New York University's Tisch School of the Arts studying at the Atlantic Acting School, she decided she was the star. She would like to thank her Mom and her Dad for lifting her up to the sky with their support and everyone at LOVECHILD Theater Company. Her recent credits include; TISCH DRAMA STAGE: *The Threepenny Opera* (Bob/Molly/Ensemble), Atlantic Acting School: *Book of Will* (Ben Jonson), *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Mitch) ...so maybe her wish came true after all <3 @ill.do.it.tomaura

Sánchez Sánchez (Director): (they/them, elle/elles) Sánchez is a first generation Mexican American actor, director, and dramaturg. They're a senior at New York University in Drama and Latino Studies--aspira unir el mundo del teatro con el público Latino. They focus on work by, for, and about Latinos in hopes of having their image reflected back at them. Sánchez invites audiences into the world of the productions they're in by helping them take a deeper look at the traditional family values upheld in Latin households, y ayudándolos entender que la única manera de avanzar hacia tu futuro es sanar del pasado. Sánchez would like to thank LOVECHILD Theater Company for trusting them as the director of this project; everyone on the creative team has been a rock during this process and the performers have been a true inspiration.

Kate Shea Saumell (Vanessa): (she/her) is thrilled to be in her third show with the Atlantic Acting School. Previously, she played Rebecca in *The Book of Will* and Hall in *Men on Boats*. Kate is so glad that everyone came to see the LOVECHILD Theater Company in their first show! Working with the LOVECHILD cast, crew, and Stage (m)Anna-ger has been incredible, and she can't wait for you to see what they've been working on. She would also like to thank her besties, teachers, family, and slenderman for all of their support.

Laura Noelle Silva (Anne Bronte): (she/her) Atlantic Acting School: *The 25th Annual Putnam... (Olive)*, NYU's Shakespeare To Go: *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia). Additional NYC credits: *Sense and Sensibility* (Lucy Steele). Laura is a Senior in her last semester at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts pursuing her BFA in Drama and BS in Educational Theatre! Off stage you can find Laura performing at the Music Man Singing Ice Cream Shoppe in Lavallette New Jersey, teaching theatre class to little ones or working as a puppeteer. She is overjoyed to be in LOVECHILD Theater Company's first ever production and is so proud and amazed by all the work that has gone into making this beautiful work of art.

Jamie Tierney (Front of House): (he/him) is currently a third-year student at NYU Tisch Drama's Atlantic Conservatory. Over the course of his three years at NYU, Jamie has been involved in numerous theater productions and student films. Originally from Red Bank, New Jersey, Jamie started acting when he was 15 after auditioning for his high school's rendition of *The Laramie Project*.



ATLANTIC STAFF



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JEFFORY LAWSON
SCHOOL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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ANNIE MACRAE
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PAMELA ADAMS
ASSOCIATE GENERAL MANAGER
CAMRON PARKER
STAGE 2 PRODUCTION MANAGER
DAVID CALLAHAN
COMPANY MANAGER
FRANCES RAMOS
BOX OFFICE MANAGER
ETHAN CASO
OPERATIONS MANAGER
MELISSA CRUZ ROCHA
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION
ZACH LONGSTREET
STAGE 2 ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER
EVE KELLY
OPERATIONS ASSISTANT
BAILEY SAWYER
FINANCE DIRECTOR
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FINANCE ASSOCIATE
MARK THOMAS JOHNSON
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
BARBARA TOY
CARPENTRY
ALI MARK, FRANCIS GRUNFELD
LIGHTING
ANNIE GARRETT-LARSEN
AUDIO
KIRK RUBY

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MADISON MORROW
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SARAH SHAPIRO
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COORDINATOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS - NYU
MAHIMA SAIGAL
COORDINATOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS - CONSERVATORY
ANDREW RODRIGUEZ
EDUCATION MANAGER: YOUTH PROGRAMS & SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS
TYLER EASTER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AND ALUMNI PRODUCTIONS
TOM COSTELLO
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF ATLANTIC FOR KIDS
ALISON BEATTY
PRODUCING DIRECTOR OF STUDENT PRODUCTIONS
KELLIE TAYLOR
SCHOOL COORDINATOR & INTERIM ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE ATLANTIC THEATER COMPANY AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS WERE BUILT ON THE OCCUPIED TRADITIONAL LANDS OF THE LENAPE PEOPLE. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE INDIGENOUS CARETAKERS OF THESE LANDS AND HONOR THE LENAPE TRIBES WHO CONTINUE TO THRIVE TODAY.





A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Reader,

First and foremost, THANK YOU for joining us to celebrate LOVECHILD Theater Company's inaugural show. After three years of learning practical aesthetics at the Atlantic Acting School, we could not be more excited to produce a play at the Atlantic Stage 2! This company has been hard at work all year bringing to life our mission of creating weird, wild, gory, and glorious theater; I cannot imagine a more perfect play than *Gondal* by Kimberly Belflower to share with you as our flagship production. *Gondal* is a prime example of the passionate work that is born when we see ourselves reflected on the page. In uplifting voices that we feel speak for us, we hope audience members who also find themselves outside of the bounds of "normalcy" are comforted by our performances.

Gondal is about escaping reality by retreating into our imaginations, and it had me questioning: Can anyone navigate their way out of the painful process that is adolescence without sustaining lasting scars? Is there, and could there even be, a safe place in this world for AFAB individuals to be wild and free? The characters of *Gondal* find themselves pressured by the confines of society. Grappling with the human desire to belong and the contrasting impulse to be their fullest and wildest selves, we see these characters push themselves and others past their limits in order to make sense of their place in the world.

This play is intensely special to me, not only because I was given the opportunity to direct it, but because of the collaboration done as a company that made this dream come true. As I wrap up not only my final year at Atlantic Acting School, but also my final year at New York University, I am grateful for having had the privilege to create a vision for this show and see it come to life. The most challenging part about this process was believing in myself and my ability to tell a story. Kimberly Belflower's text is so rich, so real, and I want this show to mean as much to you in the audience as it means to me. How do I make bold choices without asking others for permission? How do I convince myself not to apologize for being? The world has convinced us that we take up too much space—*Gondal* is Lovechild's push against that. I would like to thank the cast, crew, and production team for trusting me as Director and for creating and telling the story of *Gondal* with grace and vulnerability.

We have found ourselves in the stories of other people and to now share those stories with you is an honor. This show is for the weird girls, the introverts, the overachievers, the queer community, the burnt out gifted kids, the girl who has been told her laugh is too loud, the heartbroken, the people who haven't called their mom today, or maybe in a long time... *Gondal* is for you.

Y para mis padres que llegaron sin nada pero me lo dieron todo. Gracias por haberme educado así, estoy orgulloso de ser como soy y eso se lo debo a ustedes. Los quiero.

Thank you for being here—enjoy the show,
Sánchez Sánchez

LOVECHILD THEATER CO

LOVECHILD Theater Company was born in chaos but brought together by collective passion. We are dedicated to telling the diverse truths of the human psyche, in order to reveal the extraordinary within the ordinary. In fostering a collaborative & transformative environment, we create pieces that reflect our cohort by uplifting voices that we feel speak for us. We aim to create the weird, wild, gory, and glorious theater that we want to see. With a focus on honoring a multiplicity of experiences, we commit ourselves to boldly reinterpreting the theatrical landscape.



