

125  
CELEBRATING

FRIENDS  
UNIVERSITY

Friends University Theatre  
*presents*

HE SAID  
YES  
HE SAID  
NO

BY BERTOLT BRECHT

*Directed by Martín Balmaceda*

Cornerstone Studio Theatre  
Riney Fine Arts Center

Friday, November 3  
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 4  
7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 5  
2 p.m.

# THE DIRECTOR



Martín Balmaceda is an experienced theatre educator and director known for his passion for creative collaboration. He has worked with artists from various fields to create unique experiences for his audiences. He has directed original productions and adaptations of classic plays throughout North and South America. Martín's recent productions include *An Enemy of the People*, *Medea*, and *Acheron: The River of*

*Tragedy*. He has worked at renowned theater venues in New York and taught at various esteemed institutions. Martín is a graduate of the Lincoln Center Directors' Lab and holds an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. He was the artistic director of Compañía de Teatro at Universidad de las Américas Puebla. Martín is excited to direct this student production of *He Said Yes/He Said No* and to collaborate with the creative community at Friends University.

## Words of the Director

I am thrilled to be directing Bertolt Brecht's *He Said Yes/He Said No* at the Friends University theatre program. Inspired by the open landscape of Kansas and the values of Friends University, my focus has been on presenting a play that highlights the importance of community, one's individual decisions, the consequences of those decisions, and most importantly, the openness to consequences for the individual and community. *He Said Yes/He Said No* is a simple parable that delves into an exploration of accepting circumstances and rules without questioning. The protagonist, a child, gets two chances to seek an understanding of right and wrong, and of justice, leading the child to a profound transformation within the community. I hope that the audience will enjoy this theatrical experience in which the characters' journeys and transformations are told through singing, movement, and live music.

# BERTOLT BRECHT

Bertolt Brecht, born in Augsburg, Germany (1898-1956), was a visionary of the theatre world. He was a multi-talented artist, excelling as a dramatist, poet, theatre director, and practitioner. He revolutionized the way we think about drama by pioneering a new theatrical style famously known as 'epic theatre.' Brecht's unique approach to theatre emphasized social and political commentary, and it continues to inspire artists and audiences alike today.



Cast and crew of *He Said Yes/He Said No* (l-r)  
*Rebecca Grosselin, Katrina Leddy, Sierra Grow, Niomi Ndirangu,  
Aiden Oswald-Harris, Michael Taylor, Jarod Daniel, Adin Gilmore*



# THE CREW

## Director

*Martín Balmaceda*

## Musical Director and Composer

*Adin Gilmore*

## Stage Manager

*Rebecca Grosselin*

## Lighting Design

*Dan Harmon*

## Set Design

*Karen Smith*

## Costume Design

*Ali Kells*

## Sound

*Bob Hett*

## Choreography

*Heather Eilerts*

## Assistant Stage Manager

*Taylor Athanasiou*

# THE CAST

**The Narrator**  
*Michael Taylor*

**The Teacher**  
*Jarod Daniel*

**The Mother**  
*Sierra Grow*

**The Boy**  
*Aidan Oswald-Harris*

**The Students**  
*Katrina Leddy and Niomi Ndirangu*

**The Chorus**  
*Michael Taylor and Sierra Grow*

# BIOGRAPHIES



## ***Composer, Adin Gilmore***

Adin Gilmore is an aspiring composer and musician who has been writing and performing for many years; much of his music has been premiered on stages across the greater Wichita area. Adin is excited, and grateful to Martín Balmaceda for the opportunity to create a score for such a unique production!



## ***Jarod Daniel, The Teacher***

Jarod has spent most of his performing career as a professional puppeteer. He took some time off from school to perform and has just recently returned to Friends. He has loved getting to bring the character of the Teacher to life in the play and hopes you enjoy the show!



## ***Sierra Grow, The Mother***

Sierra Grow is a Junior majoring in Theater and a minor in Coaching and is an active member of cheer here. He Said Yes/He Said No is her first production at Friends and she hopes everyone enjoys watching it as much as she did acting in it as The Mother.



## ***Katrina Leddy, A Student***

Katrina Leddy is excited to be performing in her second show at Friends. She made her debut in *Catch Me If You Can* as the bank teller and in the ensemble. An English major and Theater minor, she hopes you enjoy watching the performance as she did performing in it.



## ***Niomi Ndirangu, A Student***

Niomi is ecstatic to be in her first college production, having participated in Music Theatre Wichita's (MTW) *The Teen Choir* (2019-2023), a lead in *Seussical Jr.* from MTW (2023), and more! She plays a Student in He said Yes/He said No, and loved the challenge of portraying the more evil side.

# BIOGRAPHIES



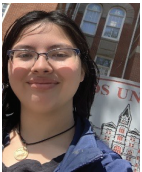
## ***Aidan Oswald-Harris, The Boy***

Aidan came to Friends University from Goddard High School, and so far his freshman year of college at Friends has been pleasant and nice! Working on the play, *He Said Yes, He Said No* by Brecht, has been enjoyable yet challenging, and he can't wait for you to watch it!



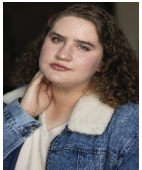
## ***Michael Taylor, The Narrator***

Michael Taylor is a senior majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Theater. He has been in several productions at Friends, including: *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Baskerville*, *Calamity Town*, and *Who...You..Me..Someone*. He has also helped backstage in; *Leaving Iowa*, *Little Women*, *The Gondoliers*, and *Catch Me if You Can*.



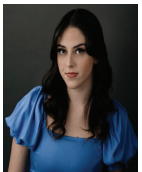
## ***Rebecca Grosselin, Stage Manager***

Rebecca Grosselin is a Junior at Friends studying Natural Science. He Said Yes, He Said No by Brecht will be her 20th overall show, having done technical theater for 4+ years. She has had a wonderful time with this cast and crew, and hopes everyone will enjoy their hard work.



## ***Taylor Athanasiou, Assistant Stage Manager***

Taylor Athanasiou, a Sophomore at Friends studying Zoo Science. This is her 7th Fine arts event at Friends, but she has been doing backstage work for 4+ years and is excited to once more help with *He Said Yes, He Said No* by Brecht. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!



## ***Ali Kells, Costume Designer***

Ali Kells' a Music Theatre major at Friends, some of her experience includes *Dream Girls* and *The Rocky Horror Show* through Crown Arts Collaborative (CAC). Her next show is *White Christmas*, also with CAC, Ali's had so much fun and thanks her professors and staff for this opportunity. She hopes you enjoy!

THANKS  
FOR COMING!

JOIN US AT ANOTHER EVENT!

### NOVEMBER

He Said Yes/He Said No - Fall Theatre | Nov. 3-5 | *Cornerstone Studio Theatre*  
Singing Quakers Alumni Choir Concert | Nov. 11 | *Eastminster Presbyterian Church\**

The Tender Land - Fall Opera | Nov. 18-19 | *Alumni Auditorium*  
Orchestra & Band Concert | Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. | *Allison Traditional Magnet Middle School\**

### DECEMBER

Christmas Candlelight | Dec. 1-3 | *First Presbyterian Church\**  
Visual Art Showcase | Dec. 11, 5-7 p.m. | *Olive White Garvey Business and Technology Building*

*\*location off campus*

TICKETS AND FULL CALENDAR AT  
*friends.edu/fineartstickets*

## RINEY FINE ARTS CENTER CONSTRUCTION

As a result of the exciting renovations taking place at the Riney Fine Arts Center, the date and location for performances may be subject to change. Please check online and our social media pages for updates and ticket information.



NEWSLETTER

*friends.edu/theweeklyhappenings*



SOCIAL MEDIA

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