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Program for the Stage Production The Complete History of Ursinus College [Abridged]

Domenick Scudera
Ursinus College

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URSINUS COLLEGE THEATER

Lenfest Theater



**THE COMPLETE
HISTORY OF
URSINUS
COLLEGE
[ABRIDGED]**

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

We welcome you to this performance, Ursinus College Theater's stage celebration of the college's 150th anniversary!

The college's new core curriculum, Quest: Open Questions Open Minds, proposes that education is a conversation, and that the best conversations begin with real questions (What should matter to me? How should we live together? How can we understand the world? What will I do?) With this in mind, we have built our show around asking questions to immerse us all in the unique and fascinating history of Ursinus College. As the characters onstage ask questions about the college's history, we hope that you learn about and appreciate the college in new ways as we engage in the answers to those questions.

In 1928, Ursinus' president at the time, George L. Omwake, wrote in the Ruby yearbook about how theater contributes to this academic conversation in distinct ways. He said, "Human thought is never quite so interesting as when presented in the form of conversation in which there is the background of various personalities, and the full effect is never gotten until these personalities are made to live as in the enactment of a play." In this performance, you will meet some of Ursinus' vibrant personalities embodied by our actors: John Henry Augustus Bomberger, Minerva Weinberger, Bertha Hendricks, Eleanor Frost Snell, W. Robert Crigler, and so many more. College traditions, songs, (even our sculptures!) will be brought to life in new ways for your entertainment and education. We are having fun with the Ursinus history, and we hope you will too.

President Omwake knew that theater engages our minds and hearts most effectively and powerfully. For those of us who have participated in this "conversation" about the history of Ursinus through the process of creating this play, we have learned a great deal about the college and about each other. President Omwake had wished that our students would come to recognize the educational value of theater when he wrote: "May the stage which has been provided as part of our academic equipment inspire students to the appreciation of true art, encourage them in the full exercise of their hidden powers, and give them skill and refinement in the use of what otherwise might have been undiscovered, or at best, undeveloped, powers of expression." His words have proved true for our experience on this production.

Our hope is that you, our audience, will now join the conversation by participating in this performance. We encourage you to laugh and to sing along with us – and maybe you, too, will gain insight and appreciation for this campus that we call home.

Domenick Scudera, M.F.A.

- Professor of Theater
- Chair of the Theater & Dance Department
- Playwright/Director of *The Complete History of Ursinus College [Abridged]*

For our **150th anniversary**, Ursinus College is proud to partner with Steel City Coffeehouse and Brewery. We also appreciate the ongoing support of the Collegeville community. Be sure to check out “Music for 150 Carpenters” at the Berman Museum opening November 7.



URSINUS COLLEGE THEATER

presents

**THE COMPLETE
HISTORY OF**

URSINUS COLLEGE [ABRIDGED]

written and directed by **Domenick Scudera**, Professor of Theater

ENSEMBLE

Ruby.....**Ruby Serafin**

Samuel**Isaiah Braugher**

Gus.....**Jacob Ryan**

Prudence.....**Gabby DeMelfi**

The Ursinus Quest Ensemble

Austin Brzezicki

Jessica Celli

Terry Cruz

Kate Foley

Ben Johnson

Gabriella Marrero

Kathryn McHugh

Hannah Ritter

Abigail Rogers

Lillian Vila Licht

Alison Wolf

Liam Worcheck

The role of the Professor will be played by
a different, surprise Ursinus alum/employee
at each performance

Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

Texting and photography is prohibited during the performance.

PRODUCTION

Producer/Director **Domenick Scudera**
Scenic Designer **Meghan Jones**
Lighting Designer **Shannon Zura**
Costume Designer..... **Brian Strachan**
Sound Designer **Domenick Scudera**
Props Designer **Morgana Olbrich**
Film Director/Editor **Tommy Armstrong**
Technical Director **Meghan Jones**
Stage Manager..... **Josh Kalapati**
Assistant Stage Manager..... **Justine Cinalli**
Performance Technology Engineer.....**Sue Ragusa**
Audio Visual Technology Engineer....**James Futter**
Box Office Manager..... **Lindsey Reilly**
House Manager.....**Colleen Murphy**
Administrative Assistant **Amy Gerberich**
Light Board Operator.....**Morgana Olbrich**
Wardrobe Crew.....**Kyle Guzy**
Deck Crew..... **Katie Sanfield, Rebekah Kline**

Tech Production Assistants:

Sarah Becker, Madi Moses, Donovan Erskine, Robert Fisher, John Byrne, Nick Williams, Kelsey Gavin, Josh Kalapati, Rebekah Kline

Event Technicians:

Wilmar Aleman, Nathan Antwi, Arthur Artene, Sydney Bowman, Casey Coan, Zach Crebbin, Jacob Dunst, Jalen Everette, Nikole Fandino Pachon, Sam Gregory, Charlie Griffin, Joli Hannibal, Chris Karmilowicz, Max Lakritz, Alexa Lewis, Michael Lin, Tristen Maraglio, Sarah Marchione, Naomi Marin, Liz McKenna, Madi Moses, Colleen Murphy, Chandu Palepu, Janice Partee, Oniel Salik, Justin Siberski, Chelsea Stitt, Kat Swan, Alex Torres, Codi Yhap

ENSEMBLE

Isaiah Braugher (*Samuel*) is a junior majoring in Theater. Last semester Isaiah appeared in the chorus of *The Medusa Play*.

Austin Brzezicki (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a freshman undecided about his major. He spends much of his time playing and writing songs on his guitar and singing. This is his first show at Ursinus, so he's very excited to be part of the cast!

Jessica Celli (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a sophomore at Ursinus, and so excited to be in yet another Ursinus College production! Previous Ursinus credits are: *Radium Girls* (Kathryn) and *The Medusa Play* (ensemble). She is currently triple majoring in Biology, Sociology and Anthropology but continues to find time for her first two loves: theater and dance. Jessica is very excited to be a part of such a wonderful and charismatic cast and would like to thank everyone who made it possible for her to be here including her mom, dad, sisters Abigail and Sarah, Aunt Sue, Uncle Steve, and cat Bubby.

Terry Cruz (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a freshman majoring in Media and Communication Studies. This is his first time performing in a play and he hopes that everyone enjoys the show.

Gabby DeMelfi (*Prudence*) is a junior Media and Communication Studies and Psychology double major with a minor in Dance. Gabby has appeared in several Breakaway Student Productions.

Kate Foley (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a freshman majoring in English and Theatre and minoring in Creative Writing. This is her first show at Ursinus, but her previous credits include Captain Hook in *Peter Pan Jr.*, Banzai in *Lion King Jr.*, and Silly Girl in *Beauty and the Beast*. Kate would like to thank her cast and crew for all their hard work!

Benjamin Johnson (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a senior Mathematics major. He has previously performed in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hair*, *Lysistrata*, *Radium Girls*, *The Medusa Play*, and some student produced events. He would like to thank his parents for their continued support, and his wonderful girlfriend Sara, for the best two years he could ask for.

Gabriella Marrero (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a sophomore majoring in Theater. She is a transfer student and loving her time at Ursinus so far. She thanks her mom and dad for coming all the way from New York City: "I love you!" She hopes you enjoy the show.

Kathryn McHugh (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a freshman intending to major in Psychology. Enjoy the show!

Hannah Ritter (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a sophomore Psychology major who made her acting debut last year, starting with her role as Rowan in the winter production of *Lucid* and her ensemble role in *The Medusa Play*.

Abigail Rogers (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is freshman thinking about majoring in Environmental Studies. This is her first performance she is participating in at Ursinus and she hopes to continue to be a part of the theater department until she graduates. She is very excited about the show and can't wait for you to see it!

Jacob Ryan (*Gus*) is a sophomore majoring in Theater. While at Ursinus, Jacob has performed as Michael in *God of Carnage*, and Raymond Barry/Dr. Joseph Knef/Reporter/Tom in *Radium Girls*. Jacob hopes that you enjoy *The Complete History of Ursinus College (Abridged)*!

Ruby Serafin (*Ruby*) is a senior with a double major in Theater and Media and Communication Studies. She has participated in every production at Ursinus since her freshman year either acting or in stage crew. She is looking forward to the show and is excited to participate in more productions.

Alison Wolf (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a freshman majoring in Theater and History. She has performed in *Dracula* as a Vixen, The Doctor in *The Skin of Our Teeth*, the Minstrel in *Once Upon A Mattress* among many others. She is excited to be involved in her first show at Ursinus and hopes you enjoy!

Lillian Vila Licht (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a sophomore English major at Ursinus. Lillian is happy to be a part of *The Complete History of Ursinus College (Abridged)* and hopes you enjoy the show.

Liam Worcheck (*Ursinus Quest Ensemble*) is a sophomore English and Philosophy double major with a minor in Film Studies.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Tommy Armstrong (*Film Director/Editor*) is a senior English major and is a filmmaker. His comedy musical film about depression, *Tune Out* is on YouTube. So is *Gray's World*, *How to Survive a Scary Movie* and *Higher Education*, all of which feature Ursinus theater students and professors.

Meghan Jones (*Scenic Designer*) is happy to join the creative team on *The Complete History of Ursinus College (Abridged)*. Previous designs with Ursinus Theater Department include *Radium Girls*, *Clybourne Park*, *By the Way: Meet Vera Stark*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, and *Search for Signs of Intelligent Life*. She designs throughout the Philadelphia region. Her designs can be seen with Inis Nua Theatre Co., Azuka, Theatre Exile, Act II Playhouse, and Lantern Theater Co. Past highlighted designs include *Penelope*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, *Coriolanus*, and *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Meghan also designs for Drexel University; recent productions include *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Avenue Q*. She teaches stagecraft and production for Ursinus College and is the Technical Director for the Theater and Dance Department. Meghan holds her MFA from Temple University. Most appreciation to Ursinus's staff, cast, and crew for all their support.

Josh Kalapati (*Stage Manager*) is a sophomore Computer Science major and working on his first Ursinus production.

Morgana Olbrich (*Props Master*) is a senior History major with a minor in Education. Last year Morgana designed props for *Radium Girls*, *God of Carnage*, *Agnes of God*, and *The Medusa Play*. She also served as the light board operator for *Radium Girls*.

Domenick Scudera (*Playwright and Director*) is Professor of Theater, founder and chair of Ursinus' Theater & Dance Department, and one of the college's CIE coordinators. He began teaching at Ursinus in 1997 and has directed approximately 40 productions for the college including, most recently, *Agnes of God*, *God of Carnage*, *Hair*, *Clybourne Park* and *12 Angry Jurors*. Professionally, he has directed plays at the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theater, Delaware Theater Company, Historic Philadelphia Inc., and the Waitstaff Comedy Troupe. He and his three 2-legged dogs are pet therapy volunteers at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital. The dogs can be followed on social media @2legdogs.

Brian Strachan (*Costume Designer*) has designed costumes for many shows at Ursinus including *Clybourne Park*, *Hair*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. He teaches make-up design at Rowan University, Temple University and Ursinus College. Brian has designed for numerous theater and dance companies and colleges in the Philadelphia area including the University of the Arts, Theater Exile, Lantern Theater, Delaware Theater Company, and the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theater.

Shannon Zura (*Lighting Designer*) is happy to be returning to Ursinus as the lighting designer. Her most recent design credits include *The Craftsman* and *An Iliad* at the Lantern and InterAct Theatre Company's productions of *Sensitive Guys*, *Straight White Men*, *Three Christs of Manhattan*, and *Some Other Kind of Person*. Previous design credits include the lights and sound for Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble's *Leading Ladies* and Opera House Arts' *Last Gas*; lights for Portland Stage Company's *Papermaker*, Penobscot Theatre's *Wit*, and Big Picture Show's *Switch Triptych*; sound for Portland Stage Company's *Veils*, *Last Gas*, *God of Carnage*, *Red*, and *Our Man in Havana*; and sets for PORTopera's *La Fille du Regiment* and InterAct's *Black Pearl Sings*. Shannon holds an M.F.A. in Lighting Design from Temple University and was Associate Professor and Chair of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. She is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of Design at Franklin and Marshall College.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the following for contributing to the process of developing this production:

Faculty and staff of the Ursinus Theater & Dance department, the CASE office team, Missy Bryant, Joanna Timmerman, Theodora Caputo, Charles Stainback, KC Boyle, Ed Moorhouse, Pamela Panarella, Dom Monte, Jamie Shuttlesworth, Rosa Abrahams, Jon Volkmer, Nathan Rein, Christian Rice, Tony Lobo, Gene Spencer, Robert Dawley, John Spencer, Lew Riley, Charlie Jamison, Peter Looft, Brock Blomberg, Melissa Sanders Giess, John Bera, Ryan Walvoord, Laura Moliken, Erin Stroble, Andy Edwards, Tom Yencho and the Sesquicentennial Committee.

AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Carolyn Weigel, College Archivist, for her invaluable help with researching Ursinus' history.

Ursinus College Theater & Dance

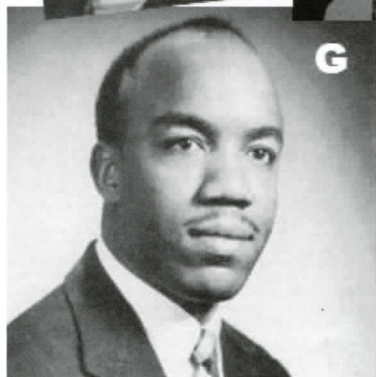
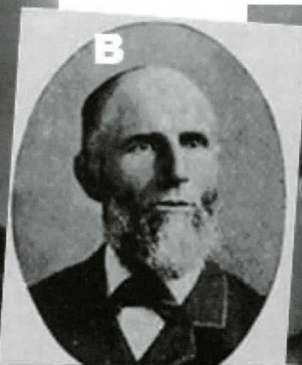
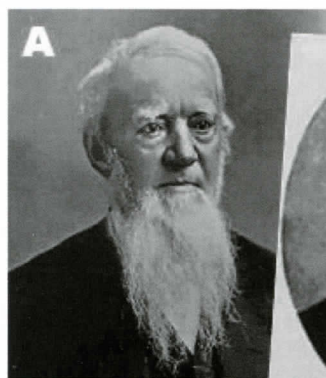
*The Open Questions Curriculum:
How Can We Understand the World?*

Have you ever considered majoring, double majoring, or minoring in Theater or Dance?

A rigorous liberal arts degree in Theater or Dance prepares students for professional work and graduate school in both the arts and other fields. Ursinus College's Theater and Dance programs offer historical, critical, and practical training in the performing arts. Whether you pursue a career in the arts or take a class or perform on our stages, the Ursinus Theater and Dance programs will prepare you for a life in which critical thinking, aesthetic awareness, and communication are integral components.

Email Dance Prof. Karen Clemente (kclemente@ursinus.edu)
or Theater Prof. Domenick Scudera (dscudera@ursinus.edu)
for more information on how Theater and Dance
can be a meaningful part of your college experience.

Below are actual photographs of some of the many Ursinus people
 you will meet in this play. Can you guess who they are?
[Answers below]



- A. John Henry Augustus Bomberger,
Ursinus' first president
- B. J. Shelley Weinberger, professor
& father of Minerva
Bertha Hendricks, first female
graduate of Ursinus
- D. Dr. Elizabeth White, first Dean of
Women
- E. Eleanor Frost Snell, winning
coach
- F. John Mauchley, professor
- G. J. Robert Criegler, Ursinus' first
African-American graduate

**Ursinus College Theater & Dance Department
Fall 2019 Semester**

The Complete History of Ursinus College (Abridged)

by Domenick Scudera

Oct. 3-6



Rumors

by Neil Simon

Oct. 31-Nov. 3



Ursinus College Dance Company:

Fall Concert

Nov. 21-23



To buy tickets, visit www.ursinus.edu/tickets
or call the Box Office at 610-409-3030
General Admission - \$8.00 / Students & Seniors - \$5.00