

DAVIS-WALDORF
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES | DW PAS
23RD SEASON



PUSH PHYSICAL THEATRE

Thursday, Oct 26, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.
Te Ata Memorial Auditorium

Welcome to the Te Ata Memorial Auditorium on the campus of the University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma. We are proud to host the 23rd season of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series, a project of the USAO Foundation. This is the most ambitious season in the history of our series.

Thanks to grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project, and Oklahoma Arts Council, we have expanded our educational mission. While every visiting artist provides a workshop, masterclass, or outreach performance, this season opened with a campus residency with PUSH Physical Theatre. The entire month of October has been devoted to workshops with students, mentoring, and production development of "HYDE." Additionally, PUSHers have been the inspiration for the USAO Theatre Arts Program "shadow show" "JEKYLL," where students will exhibit what they have learned about corporeal mime, physical storytelling, and methods of devising physical theatre. This extraordinary experience includes student designers, technicians, and production staff. A student-led "behind the scenes" documentary of this teaching and learning experience will be released in 2024.

This season also includes the return of The World-Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra, the comedy-meets-bluegrass sensation The Cleverlys, and the debut performance of the American Midwest Ballet Company in our series. We have created a new partnership with the Chisholm Trail Arts Council and exchanged FLEX tickets, so all subscribers can reserve a seat for their Live Concert Series. We are excited to continue to grow, reflect and support the growth of Chickasha's arts community and our local economy. Chickasha is moving Onward and the arts will continue to be a place where you can find community, inspiration, and awe.

Thanks for being here with us. We hope you make some great memories this season!

Katie Davis, MFA
Professor of Theatre Arts





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This project was supported in part by the Oklahoma Arts Council,
which receives support from the State of Oklahoma
and the National Endowment for the Arts.



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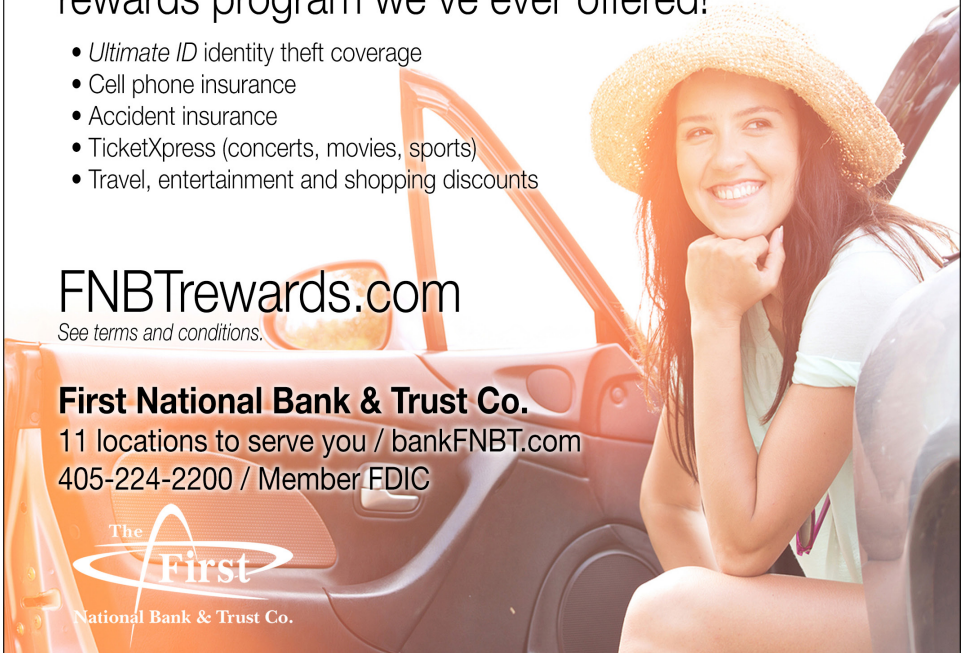
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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series is to encourage attendance at high-quality performing arts events as an aspect of a liberal arts education for our students, to provide an affordable cultural and entertainment resource for our college family and our community, and to lead in local arts education by presenting relevant and culturally diverse programming that broadens the aesthetic of our audiences.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Katie Davis, *MFA DWPAS Executive Director*

Dr. Christy Clift

Susan Gearhart

Amy Goddard

Emily Godwin, *M.Ed.*

Amber Heilman

Jeff Taylor, *MFA*

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PUSH PHYSICAL THEATRE



THE PUSHERS



Darren & Heather Stevenson (Founding Artistic Co-Directors, PUSHers). Born and raised in England, Darren met New Jersey native Heather during their mutual studies at The Center in St. Louis. Their shared love of theatre and performing planted the seeds for their relationship and artistic collaboration.



After completing their studies at The Goldston & Johnson School for Mimes and touring together, the couple founded the Studio School of the Arts in Atlanta, Georgia. They relocated to Rochester, NY with their two children in 2000 and created PUSH Physical Theatre, growing it over the next 23 years into the international touring company that it is today.

Darren and Heather have created many new works for PUSH, including full-length adaptations of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Jekyll & Hyde*. Shorter works include "Flight 1549," set to the audiotape of the miraculous airplane landing in the Hudson River; and "-abled," an exploration of addiction. Heather's touching look at the elderly in "The Visit" is a thought-provoking counterpoint to Darren's powerful take on war in "The Soldier." A grant from the Farash Foundation enabled collaboration with RIT's National Institute for the Deaf to create "Red Ball," a study of the real and virtual worlds using iPad technology. They created *Arc of Ages*, a full-length exploration of Jewish history and culture, which featured an unprecedented 23 physical theatre performers trained by PUSH. Their recent production, "Generic Male" has sold-out performances internationally in Fringe Festivals and is currently available for booking.

The Stevensons received the 2009 Performing Artist of the Year Award from the Arts & Cultural Council for Greater Rochester, as well as the Community of Color/Anton



Germano Dance Award. Darren was awarded the University of Rochester's Lillian Fairchild Award in 2017 for PUSH's collaborative work on a multi-media opera that brought together U.S. and Mexican artists for premieres in both countries for the second time.

Cross-genre collaborations with other world-renowned artists are becoming more and more frequent for the genre-defining company, such as its partnerships with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ying Quartet.

The Stevensons have also created a children's education division called PUSH Pins and are sought-after teaching artists, developing programs that help students connect with curriculum concepts, life skills, and social issues. They run an annual summer intensive for adults that attracts students from all over the world.

Their collaboration with USAO began in 2020, during the pandemic, when they presented live, online workshops for the DWPAS and mentored student streaming productions.





Ashley Jones (PUSHer) is a physical performer, actor, and deviser. After earning his BA in European Theatre Arts from Rose Bruford College, London and training in Physical Theatre at Academia Teatro Dimitri in Switzerland, he went on to train with Phillipe Gaulier and Angela De Castro in theatrical clowning, which has formed a large part of his solo practice. As a physical performer, Ashley has worked and trained with UK-based theatre companies Gecko Physical Theatre, Nonsuch Theatre, and Frantic Assembly. His recent credits include: *The Party's Over* (2017), *Eclipse* (2017), *The Russian Play* (2017) and *Into the Clouds* (2018). As Artistic Director of Theatre Kinaesthetic, Ashley continues to develop and produce his own work exploring physical modalities within ensemble and devised performance. His credits with Theatre KinAesthetic include *Rite of Passage* (2015, 2016).

THE JEKYLL & HYDE PROJECT

A Collaboration with the PUSH Physical Theatre – Fall 2023

“HYDE”

Presented by PUSH Physical Theatre

With support from the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series, the USAO Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, and The New England Foundation for the Arts

Artistic Directors..... Darren and Heather Stevenson
Production Management..... Jeff Taylor, MFA
Dramaturgy and Facilitating Designer..... Katie Davis, MFA
Technical Director..... Jeff Rutherford
Lighting Consultant..... James Cunningham
Stage Manager..... Jack Almeida

CAST

Ashley Jones
Darren Stevenson
Heather Stevenson



“JEKYLL”

Presented by the USAO Theatre Arts Program
With support from the Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series
and USAO School of Visual and Performing Arts

Director Katie Davis, MFA
Production Management Jeff Taylor, MFA
Assistants to the Director Ty Hamilton and Avery Sanborn
Technical Director Jeff Rutherford
Stage Manager Avery Crawford

CAST

Zak Conover
Gary Daughtry
Eden Innisfree
JD Johnson
Abbee Mann
Nic Manning
Zac Robinson
Alexys Thompson
Izzy Tyler
Leigha VanOrsdol



PROJECT PRODUCTION STAFF

Consulting Choreographer..... Emily Godwin, M.Ed.
Assistant to the Technical DirectorAbigail Dansereau
Assistant to the Production Designer Mabel Cremers
Assistant Stage Manager.....Aly Jones
Light Board OperatorSparrow Marturano
Sound Technician/OperatorJake VanHooser
Electrics/Lighting..... USAO Students in Theatre Lab
and the Lighting Craft courses
Properties Mistress Monica Munn
Costume Shop Management/WardrobeAvery Crawford
Props/Costumes Gissell Castillo, Hannah McCullough, Monica Munn
Armorer Assistant Lizi Miller
Stage Crew Miriam Bell, Cristian Booth, Val Farmer, Cecilia Harrison
Fly Operator Madilynn Duszinski
Production Assistants/Documentary Team.... Jacob Finck and Rylee Trent
Box Office Manager and Publicity Assistant..... Maddie Shannon

Assistant to the Executive Director of the
Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series.....Rylee Trent
Box Office Manager for the
Davis-Waldorf Performing Arts Series..... Sami Barker '23

USAO Theatre Honors Crew

Jack Almeida, Avery Crawford, Mabel Cremers, Abigail Dansereau,
Gary Daugherty, Tylan Hamilton, Aly Jones, Abbee Mann, Alexys
Thompson, Rylee Trent



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