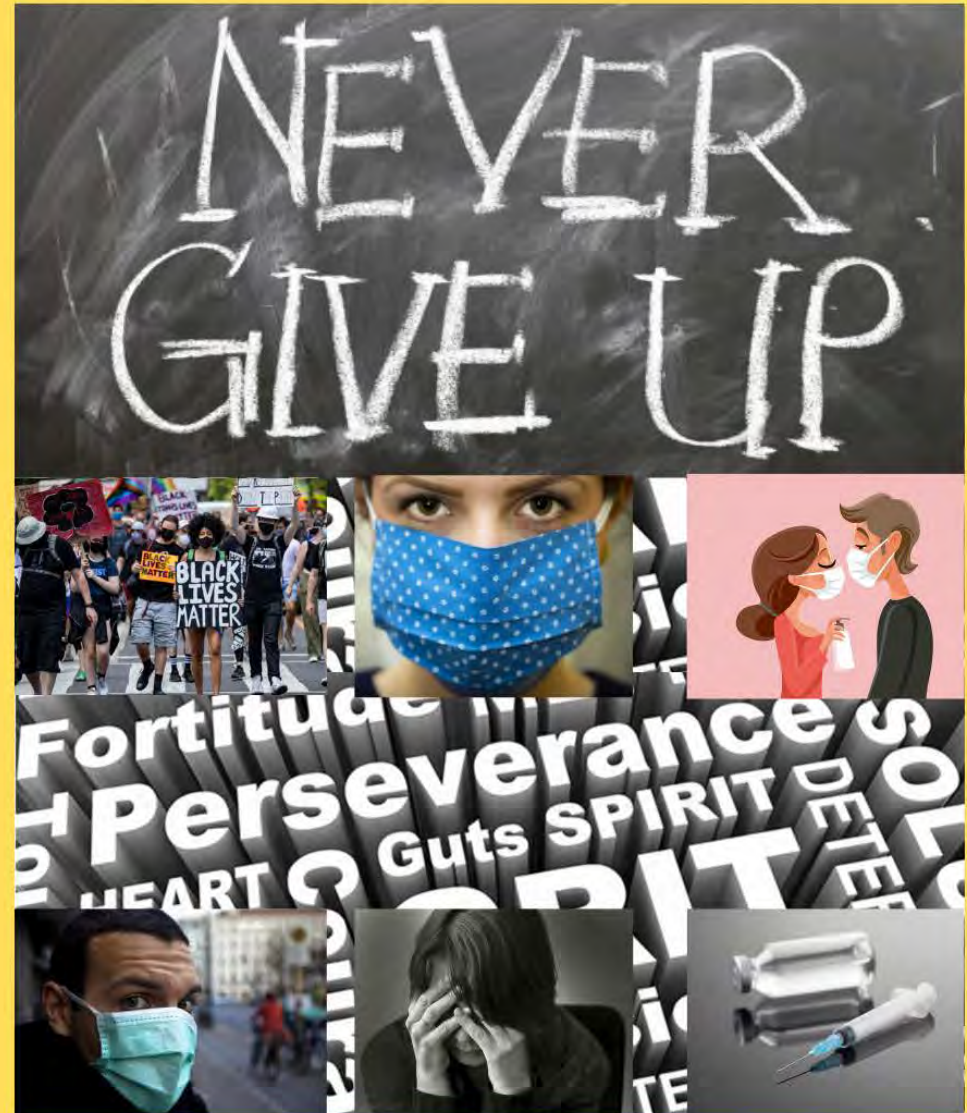


The MPC
Theatre Arts Department
Presents the Spring 2021
production:

Perseverance

Directed by Teddy Eck

Streaming Live On
5/21/2021



MPC's Theatre Arts Department & Company Presents

Perseverance

Directed by Teddy Eck

With previously produced material and original pieces composed and written by MPC students and Cast Members.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

MPC's IT Department, Jamie Dagdigan, Diane Boynton, CA Logos, House of 8 Media, MPC's Creative Writing Program especially Henry Marchand, Jeff Sundquist, Luis Guzman, Nick Castellon, and Charles E. O'Bannion II



Video Production Designed by House of 8 Media

PRODUCTION TEAM

Teddy Eck.....Director
Travis Richardson.....Technical Director/Lighting Designer
Mike Buffo.....Video Producer
Justice Post.....Music Director
Deanna Ross.....Choreographer
Megan Richardson.....Costume Designer
Adrian Clark.....Assistant Director
Jules Hart.....Video Editor
Kenny Allison.....IT Support
Kevin Smith.....Additional Sound Design & Editing
Sam Danielson.....Technical Assistant
Bryan Arrendondo.....Technical Assistant

CAST MEMBERS

Resa Cerros
Reed Flowers
Nathan Lumpkin III
Maria Del Carmen Mora
Kelsy Panno
Brandon Perry
Matthew Reich
Kalyn Shubnell
Colin Skerritt
Elijah Taurke
Sienna Tyler
Alexis Makayla Williams

Special appearances by students in the Creative Writing Department include:

Miriam Mack-Piccone
Sophia Moreno
Michelle Prejean

DIRECTOR'S NOTES - PERSEVERANCE

What a journey this last year has been. Even to write those words seems too trite and a massive understatement. Yes, the corona virus upended all of our plans and lives this past year. But this last year has been about so much more than Covid-19 and masks.

It's been about isolation, fear, depression, the news, science, not knowing who and what to trust, being angry, and 'cancel culture'. It's also been about learning and growth. It's been about us learning how to bake and garden, learning what the heck a zoom meeting is and us coming to despise it, learning that it's ok to cry and it's ok to want to connect with people when that opportunity opens itself again.

It's also been about seeking, nay demanding, change. Change within ourselves but also in some of our longstanding ideology and institutions. Us learning that Black Lives Matter is not just a slogan to say but ideas we need to act on and support in all that we do and say. Change in the theatre industry itself. With our industry shut down this past year, there have been many national conversations about reexamining the current for-profit Broadway and nonprofit models seeking more inclusivity in the writing room, rehearsal room, and on-stage and off. We are asking the question, "Why". Why are we a part of this system and why are we continuing to support companies, ideas, and practices that continue to label, divide, and hold us back.

It's too early to truly know the long-term outcome of any of these items above. But I am charged by the idea that we are looking deeper than we have before. I have faith that we as people, as a country, and as an art form will continue forward for the better. Ever changed by this last year but even more resilient, even more inspired to push for change, to challenge, to question, to ask 'why'. To quote Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius – "The impediment to action advances action. What stands in the way becomes the way." In short, the obstacles are the way. I believe that this year full of many obstacles and tribulations has helped us in more ways than we will every truly know.

That's what we are honoring tonight with our production of Perseverance. It is that idea that life has its ups and downs and everything in between and yet we persist, we persevere. We move forward, we journey onward. So, thank you for being a part of this journey and for supporting live theatre, the creation of new pieces, and MPC!

- Director, Teddy Eck

MPC THEATRE ARTS WELCOMES

Mike Buffo // House of 8 Media

In times of great change and upheaval, we turn to our wisdom keepers to help lead the way. I believe that relevance in the next ten years will have everything to do with not getting lost in the technology but staying fiercely focused on how the technology brings depth, accessibility and purpose to the lives of our audience. My commitment is to decipher what the new innovations are, and apply them to our grounded, purposeful and creative community life. Thank you for welcoming me into the MPC community. I can't wait to see what the future holds for our collaboration! - Mike Buffo

Upcoming releases which House of 8 Media Productions served as producers include:



WAR OF THE LIMELIGHT CA
High School Classrooms, '21/'22

A feature film made by teens for teens about diversity, bullying, and a small town waking up to the global refugee crisis.



BOHEMIAN SOUL
outdoor venues, Fall 2021

A documentary on the rich artistic history of Carmel as told through living "bohemians" and local historians.



JUNETEENTH MYSTERIES
virtual conference/in-person experience, June 14-20, 2021

A week of celebrating black culture here on the Monterey Peninsula.

PERFORMANCE ORDER

In Order of Appearance

The Plan - Written and performed by Sienna Tyler

Fishing - Written by Michael Weller Robbie, performed by Colin Skerritt

Autopilot - Written and performed by Sophia Moreno

The Pool - Performed by Nathan Lumpkin III

Forgotten Days - Written and performed by Sophia Moreno

Zooming at Sea - Written and Performed by Kelsy Panno

26 - Written by Paramore, performed by Resa Cerros

Those Kids - Written and performed by Elijah Taurke

Buried Child - Written by Sam Sheppard, performed by Matthew Reich

Real Women Have Curves - Written by Josefina López, performed by Carmen Mora

Stand Fast - Written and performed by Kelsy Panno

An Unlikelihood to Proceed - Written and performed by Miriam Mack-Piccone

The Shift - Written and performed by Brandon Perry

Covid Connections - Written and performed by Kalyn Shubnell

Multi-Facial - Written by Vin Diesel, performed by Reed Flowers

Unbreakable - Written and performed by Michelle Prejean

J.A.M. - Song sung by Michael Jackson, dance performance by Brandon Perry

**Sound Design and Editing by Deanna Ross & Kevin Smith*

We Wear the Mask - Poem by Maya Angelou, performed by Alexis Makayla Williams

Rise Up - Written by Andra Day, performed by Alexis Makayla Williams + Full Company

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST AND CREW



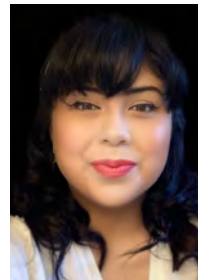
RESA CERROS - Resa is very excited to perform in MPC's production, Perseverance! She began performing at a very young age and has greatly missed being on stage during the pandemic. Past credits include, Cha-Cha in Grease at CSUMB (2017), ensemble in Reefer Madness at Paperwing (2019), and Rocky in the Rocky Horror Show at Paperwing (2019). Resa hopes everyone enjoys the show and gets to attend many more this year!



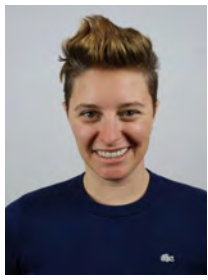
REED FLOWERS - Reed is from Los Angeles, California. After attending the University of Arizona for two years he decided to transfer back in state to attend CSUMB. While finishing his transfer requirements at MPC he came across theatre classes which led to him auditioning for the play "The Desperate Hours" which was his first part in any production. In his spare time he enjoys playing volleyball, basketball, traveling and hiking around exploring all of the beauty this region has to offer.



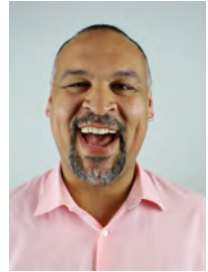
NATHAN LUMPKIN III - Nathan was born in Atlanta, Georgia and has been involved with theatre since he was an infant. His previous roles at MPC include: The Adventures of Robin Hood, and various Christmas plays.



MARIA DEL CARMEN MORA - Carmen is currently pursuing a Theatre Arts Degree at Monterey Peninsula College. She is attending the Stella Adler Academy of Acting in Los Angeles. She collaborated as a writer and actor in the Merced College Theatre Fall production of It's Just Intermission. She also enjoys doing narrative work and most recently produced Marina: Angelwitch Book 5 Available on Amazon. On her spare time she enjoys spending time with her two daughters and crafting.



KELSY PANNO - Kelsy came aboard the MPC Theater Company in January of 2020, playing 4 roles in the Spring production of the New Works Festival. She has looked forward to returning to the stage since COVID-19 shutdowns forced MPC to cancel the last two performances of that show. The year since has been full of challenges relating to the pandemic, but also rich with creativity and inspiration. Kelsy is excited to share the projects that she's contributed to Perseverance, inspired by her unique experiences during the 2020 pandemic, as well as those of her friends, family and community.



BRANDON PERRY - As a native of Pasadena, Brandon began performing in grade school talent shows as Michael Jackson. In 2002 he began background work in TV and Film and took acting classes with June Chandler in Los Angeles. In 2019 he auditioned for "The Voice", and made his debut performance in "Superior Donuts" at MPC, followed by 5 performances in the "New Works festival" in 2020. He also has performed with PaperWing Theater and other local theaters. Brandon also enjoys consciously- based workshops and music.



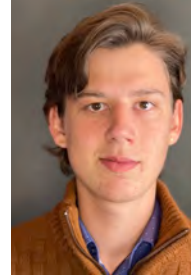
MATTHEW REICH - Matthew Reich is excited to be returning to perform at MPC! His favorite credits include the title role in Pericles at Pacific Repertory Theatre, Tybalt in Romeo and Juliet at Monterey Peninsula College, and "Rump" in Grease the Musical at Modesto Junior College. He is incredibly grateful for his family, friends, and mentors who have helped him grow in the craft he loves.



KALYN SHUBNELL - Kalyn has worked with local theaters for 25 years both in front and behind the scenes. Notable roles include Meg in Crimes of the Heart, Clara in I'm not Rappaport, and Deirdre in I Hate Hamlet. Most recently Kalyn was on the MPC stage as Officer Randy in Superior Donuts.



COLIN SKERRITT - Colin is thrilled to return to the MPC stage! He has performed in shows on the peninsula such as Cinderella (Rodgers and Hammerstein) at the former Paper Wing Theatre, as well as Man of La Mancha at the Outdoor Forest Theatre. He dedicates this performance to his caring, supportive family.



ELIJAH TAURKE - Elijah is excited to finally get back on stage after this unforeseen hiatus due to the pandemic. He participates in local community theatre along with past productions at Pacific Grove High School. He likes to live, laugh, and improv. This is his first show at MPC.

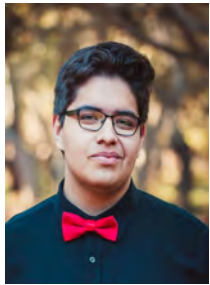


SIENNA MICHELLE TYLER - Sienna has been an acting enthusiast since childhood, landing several leading roles in home movies she made with her brothers. She's taken a handful of acting classes since then and has appeared in some short films; most recently portraying Kate in "Auditorium 13". She is also fond of speaking in the third person.



ALEXIS MAKAYLA WILLIAMS - Alexis (she/they) is a 17-year-old dual enrollment student at Marina High School and Monterey Peninsula College. They have done productions such as The Addams Family (As Morticia), The Tempest (As Stephano), and High School Musical (As Sharpay) at different theaters throughout the Central Coast. Alexis is super excited to get back on stage with this production! Alexis has a 2-year-old Guinea Pig named Gilbert that she adores. She also enjoys painting & playing her favorite video game Mass Effect!

WHO'S WHO - PRODUCTION TEAM



ADRIAN CLARK (Assistant Director) - Adrian is a fledgling directing student in the Monterey Peninsula and is currently attending MPC for theater. His passion sprouted at a young age and has acted in over 25 plays from Pacific Grove High to the Forest Theater Stage. This is his first production with MPC and hopes there will be many more in the future!



TEDDY ECK (Director) - Teddy holds an MFA: Theatre - Directing, Non-Profit Leadership & Management from the University of Memphis, as well as a BFA: Musical Theatre Performance, Screenwriting & Film Production from AMDA/The New School. His professional credits include a menagerie of Off-Broadway, cruise ships, TV, film, commercials and many regional Theatre productions. He is a proud AEA and SAG-AFTRA member.



JUSTICE POST (Music Director) - Justice is a Monterey-born musician, Justice Post has been a staff pianist at MPC since 2017 where he accompanies the college choir and voice classes. Elsewhere, he assists elementary string instruction for Carmel Unified School District, and is the organist at St. Philips's Lutheran Church of Carmel.



MEGAN RICHARDSON (Costume Designer) - Megan has been designing and building costumes for theatre for over 25 years; working everywhere from NYC to Las Vegas. Some of her favorite credits include designing the costumes for Bonnie & Clyde and Pippin at Summer Repertory Theatre in Santa Rosa, CA; as well as designing for the fashion portion of Circus Couture, the annual fundraiser for The Cure 4 the Kids Foundation in Las Vegas, NV. Megan is excited to help the students of MPC bring Perseverance to the stage - and screen. She currently lives in Seaside, CA with her husband, Travis, and their cat, Faelen.



TRAVIS RICHARDSON (TD & Lighting Designer) - Travis was the Instructor of Technical Theatre at the College of Southern Nevada from 2014 to 2015, and, before that, he was Instructor of Lighting Design & Technical Direction at Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, MO. Travis has been a Resident Lighting Designer, Lighting Specialist, and Lighting Supervisor at numerous theatres across the U.S.



DEANNA ROSS (Choreographer) - Deanna is a dance teacher, choreographer, and lifelong lover of the arts. She is one-half of the folk-pop duo The Jinxes and is writing her first novel. When not sheltering in place, you can find her in MPC's dance studios, exploring storytelling with the body. She is grateful to have accompanied Brandon on this creative journey.

Upcoming Fall 2021 Theatre Arts Courses

with live, online, and hybrid options!

- Thea 1 - Intro to Theatre
- Thea 4 - Intercultural Drama
- Thea 5 - Film Appreciation
- Thea 8A & 8B - Screenwriting I & II
- Thea 9* - Film History I (1880-1950)
- Thea 15A - Acting I
- Thea 20* - Intro to Theatrical Design
- Thea 26* - Introduction to Digital Film Production
- And More!

* - notates a newly launched course at MPC!