



MTSU THEATRE AND DANCE  
PRESENTS

# anon(ymous)

WRITTEN BY NAOMI IIZUKA  
DIRECTED BY TIFFANY TRENT

FEBRUARY 17-20, 2022  
TUCKER THEATRE



CENTERSTAGE  
SERIES



MTSU  
ARTS

MIDDLE  
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# A Note From Our Dramaturg

Dr. DeRon Williams

In the US, we struggle with the notion of immigration reform, bearing witness to the many faces on our borders in search of safety. In search of a home. According to the UN Refugee Agency, "there are nearly 26.4 million refugees [and] around half of whom are under the age of 18," taking the journey alone. In their attempt to flee gangs, violence, and conflict, they, in turn, are faced with a myriad of challenges and atrocities associated with their harrowing journey, including the struggle of belonging.

As a story of strength, collective loss, and humanity, Naomi Iizuka's *Anon(ymous)* explores notions of homelessness, blame, empathy, and abuse of power. She uses Homer's *The Odyssey* as inspiration to underscore the trials and tribulations of young refugees encountering unspeakable acts of cruelty and astonishing moments of beauty. Tracing the sacrificial voyage of Anon--presumably short for Anonymous--we witness a young man searching for safety and stability only to face confusion, uncertainty, and antagonism. This brilliantly written piece avoids pinpointing the specific place, location, or even war that he and his mother Nemasani is escaping. As a result of Iizuka's purposeful omission and ambiguity, she reminds audiences, like yourself, of the many children, from various backgrounds and cultures who have had no choice other than making such an arduous journey.

Propelled by a blending of magical realism, humor, poetry, and movement, *Anon(ymous)* intentionally shifts the notion of home from merely a place to the memories that sustain and the loved ones who give us hope because home is where love is overflowing.

# artistic(team)

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	DR. TIFFANY TRENT
<b>ASST. DIRECTOR</b>	TORIYA BUFORD
<b>DRAMATURG</b>	DR. DERON WILLIAMS
<b>SCENIC DESIGNER</b>	SCOTT BOYD
<b>COTSUME DESIGNER</b>	DENESE RENEE EVANS
<b>ASST. COSTUME DESIGNER</b>	ISAAC SISUNIK
<b>LIGHTING DESIGNER</b>	SAMMY WEBSTER
<b>ASST. LIGHTING DESIGNER</b>	SUSIE MONK
<b>SOUND DESIGNER</b>	KEVIN O'DONNELL
<b>ASST. SOUND DESIGNER</b>	MATTHEW PARVIN
<b>PROPERTIES COORDINATOR</b>	KALEY RUST
<b>MAKEUP DESIGNER</b>	ELIZABETH EDWARDS
<b>FIGHT DIRECTOR</b>	DAVID WILKERSON
<b>FIGHT CAPTAIN</b>	MATTHEW PARVIN
<b>DIALECT COACH</b>	YETUNDE FELIX-UKWU
<b>VOCAL ARRANGEMENTS</b>	MOIRA CAGLE
	CHRISTOPHER COOPER
	MAX FLEISHHACKER

# production(crew)

<b>PRODUCTION MANAGER</b>	JOHN UNDERWOOD	<b>LIGHTING PROGRAMMER</b>	HARRY WHITMORE
<b>STAGE MANAGER</b>	HANNAH LOFTUS	<b>LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR</b>	NOAH MCCARTY
<b>ASST. STAGE MANAGERS</b>	LAUREN THOMAS MATTHEW PARVIN	<b>HANG AND FOCUS CREW</b>	THEA 3400
<b>TECHNICAL STAGE MANAGER</b>	TAYLOR DUNKIN	<b>AUDIO ENGINEER</b>	RACHEL HALL
<b>TECHNICAL DIRECTOR</b>	TODD SEAGE	<b>AUDIO ASSISTANT</b>	BYEOLA PARK
<b>ASST. TECHNICAL DIRECTOR</b>	ZAKYRA MCKINNEY	<b>HOUSE MANAGER</b>	NEWT SCHOTTELKOTTE SARAH RITTERSCAMP
<b>SCENE SHOP SUPERVISOR</b>	DILLON DAVIS	<b>STAGE MANAGER FACULTY ADVISOR</b>	KATE GOODWIN
<b>SCENIC BUILD CREW</b>	SHOP STAFF & THEA 2900	<b>LIGHTING DESIGN FACULTY ADVISOR</b>	DARREN E. LEVIN
<b>STAGE HAND</b>	DYLAN MYERS PRICE	<b>LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY ADVISOR</b>	BRIAN D. ELLIOTT
<b>WARDROBE HEAD</b>	NORA CHISAMORE	<b>PROPERTIES FACULTY ADVISOR</b>	DONNA SEAGE
<b>WARDROBE CREW</b>	THEA 3200	<b>EVENT SUPERVISOR</b>	MEGAN MARCHAN
<b>MASTER ELECTRICIAN</b>	RACHEL HALL	<b>MARKETING CONTENT CREATOR</b>	AARON JOHNSON

# cast(list)

<b>NASREEN / BELEN</b>	ALEXANDRA AGUILAR
<b>ANON</b>	LYNDARIOUS ARRINGTON
<b>CALISTA / NICE AMERICAN DAUGHTER</b>	MOIRA CAGLE
<b>SENATOR LAIUS / NICE AMERICAN FATHER</b>	CHRIS COOPER
<b>SERZA</b>	V. TAYLOR DAVIS
<b>NEMASANI</b>	PALOMA DIAZ
<b>ALI</b>	MAX FLEISCHHACKER
<b>HELEN LAIUS / NICE AMERICAN MOTHER</b>	KATE HOLLYFIELD
<b>RITU</b>	ALEXANDRA JOBE
<b>IGNACIO</b>	BRIAN JONES
<b>ZYCLO'S PET BIRD</b>	NAOMI LAURENT
<b>MR.ZYCLO</b>	CARSON LOVING
<b>NAJA</b>	ALEXIS MOSLEY
<b>PASCAL</b>	TAYE SMITH
<b>MR. YURI MACKUS / STRYGAL</b>	ALEX WHITE
<b>CHORUS OF REFUGEES / ENSEMBLE</b>	GRACE BELLOWS
	AVA JORDAN
	FAY LANE
	SYDNEY MAUPIN
	BONDE USREY



## Dr. Tiffany Trent (DIRECTOR)

Tiffany Trent is Chair of Theatre and Dance and has enjoyed the warm welcome from students, staff, and faculty here at MTSU. She is grateful for the joy and exuberance that the cast and crew have poured into this journey about bridging gaps in who we are by remembering who we are. Tiffany thanks you for witnessing the work of this gifted playwright and insightful team.

# A Note From Our Director

Dr. Tiffany Trent

In Anon(ymous) by Naomi Iizuka, we meet people who escape wars and survive seas, seeking safety, who land in concrete jungles juxtaposed with vast deserts that hold unexpected dangers as well as new joys. Since last fall, our cast and crew have explored this world of neighbors amongst us who are both invisibilized and hyper-visibilized at the same time. Iizuka paints what it means to survive on imagination, listening, and memory.

Originally commissioned by the Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis, MN, Iizuka adapts Homer's epic poem The Odyssey into a family theatre experience. What happens when we land on unknown islands on the journey towards home? What way-stations will shelter us? How can our memories bridge the gaps in what we know about who we are? When our islands collide, how will we recognize the guides we can trust to shepherd our way? While our young protagonist faces these questions along a coming-of-age journey, they arise at every point in life. We hope this exploration resonates for you.



# Toriya Buford

(ASSISTANT DIRECTOR)

Toriya is a junior in the Theatre Program. She is excited to be a part of her second production here at MTSU. She has enjoyed taking a new journey into assistant directing. She has enjoyed her experience and cannot wait to see what else is in store for her! You can catch her next time as one of the directors for MTSU 6x10.





# Hannah Loftus

**(STAGE MANAGER)**

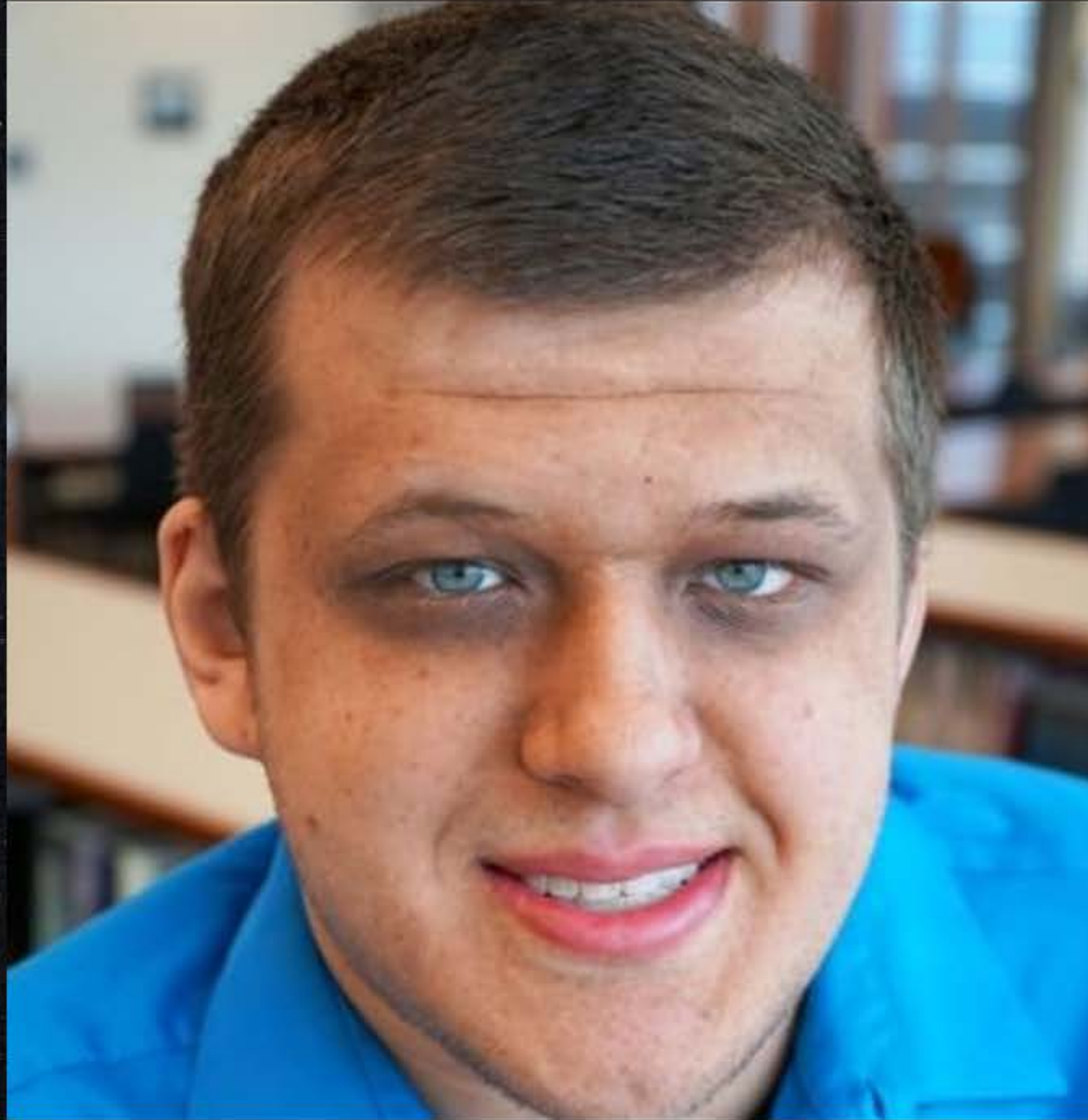
Hannah Loftus is sophomore theatre major with a focus in stage management. You might have seen her as an assistant stage manager in *THE BUSIE BODY* or *ROMEO AND JULIET*. She also recently production stage managed the 2021 FALL DANCE CONCERT here at MTSU. Over the winter break, she had the amazing opportunity to work with the Nashville Symphony for *MUSIC CITY CHRISTMAS*. She is so excited for you to see the show!



# Lauren Thomas

(ASST. STAGE MANAGER)

Lauren Thomas is a junior theatre major with focuses in Stage Management and Lighting. Her recent work includes being an ASM on MR. BURNS: A POST-ELECTRIC PLAY and THESE SHINING LIVES. It has been amazing to watch this show grow!



# Matthew Parvin

(ASST. STAGE MANAGER / ASST. SOUND DESIGNER / FIGHT CAPTAIN)

Matthew is in his second semester at MTSU. This is his second production at the school, and is excited to work on the show. Matthew would like to thank Kate Goodwin for giving him the opportunity to work on the show, and the cast and crew for working well to put on a great show. Enjoy the show!



# Alexandra Aguilar

**(NARSEEN / BELEN)**

Alexandra Aguilar is thrilled to be making her acting debut in ANON(YMOUS)! She is a freshman at MTSU and is honored to work alongside so many talented individuals. Big thanks to Tiffany for this opportunity, her family for their endless love and support, and to all who watched the show.



# Lyndarrious Aarrington

(ANON)

Lyndarrious Arrington is a Senior Theatre major at MTSU. This is his third show at MTSU, but his first solo lead role. He has previously played the role of Noel (RIDE THE CYCLONE) and Charles (THE BUSIE BODY). He is so happy to have been given a chance to tell such an important story with a great cast and crew.



# Grace Bellows

**(ENSEMBLE)**

Grace is excited to be making her debut on the Tucker stage. Previously, she helped backstage on the production of Sweeney Todd at MTSU, and she was also in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, INTO THE WOODS, and SCENES FROM METAMORPHOSES at Nolensville High School (along with some community theatre and helping with the local middle school in her hometown). She is currently attending MTSU for theatre education where she hopes to continue her theatre journey. She is very excited for everyone to see the show, and hopes you enjoy Anon(ymous).



# Moira Cagle

(CALISTA / NICE AMERICAN DAUGHTER)

Moira Cagle is so excited to be making her MTSU theatre debut in *Anon(ymous)*. She is currently studying theatre and music at MTSU. Past credit highlights include Belle (*BEAUTY AND THE BEAST*), Hecuba (*TROJAN WOMEN*) and The Wicked Witch (*THE WIZARD OF OZ*). She would like to thank the cast and crew of *Anon(ymous)* for their warm welcome into the department and her family for their constant support.



# Christopher Cooper

(SENATOR LAIUS / NICE AMERICAN FATHER)

Christopher Cooper is a sophomore Theatre Education major, and he could not be more honored to join this group of brilliant artists. Previous credits include: Ricky in *RIDE THE CYCLONE* (MTSU), Dillon in *YOU'RE STILL HERE* (The Theater Bug), Mrs. Bumbrake in *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER* (Centennial High), and Daddy Cane in *BRIGHT STAR* (Franklin High). Christopher would like to thank both his current and former directors for shaping him on and off stage and his parents for their endless love and support. He hopes you enjoy the show, and remember to make all the long journeys if it means you get to find what matters most.





## V. Taylor Davis (SERZA)

V. Taylor Davis graduated last semester with a B.A. in English and a minor in psychology. She currently works as a tutor for MTSU's University Writing Center and has rekindled a love of theater that's laid dormant since 8th grade. Taylor's 10-minute play, *A VERY NORMAL BEAR FAMILY EVENING*, will be produced in MTSU's 6x10 Festival in March. She will also be an assistant stage manager and understudy for Rutherford County Art Alliance's historical play, *PARTY OF TWELVE*, in April, and she is currently writing her first full-length play. She can't wait to get on stage for Anon(ymous)!



# Max Fleischhacker

(ALI)

Max is a theatre Major here at MTSU and is very excited to be in his fifth show here. He's previously been in 9 TO 5, KISS ME KATE, and most recently played the titular role in SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET. In his spare time he lends his voice to several audio dramas, including WHERE THE STARS FELL and THE KINGERY.



# Kate Hollyfield

(HELEN LAIUS)

Kate Hollyfield is a theatre major and a senior. Some of her past roles include Mrs. Zero (THE ADDING MACHINE), Everybody (EVERYBODY), and Lady Capulet (ROMEO AND JULIET). Kate has loved getting to know and spend time with everyone in the cast. She would like to thank her mom and stepdad for all their love and support.



# Alexandra Jobe

**(RITU / CHORUS OF REFUGEES)**

Alexandra is 19 years old and minors in theatre at MTSU. She has participated in theatre since she was young and has made appearances in film and television. She plans to use her passion for film and theatre to spread more inclusivity for disabled actors on stage and on screen. Alexandra utilizes her personal experiences as a disabled actor to bring awareness and create a more informed and accepting society while doing the things she loves.



## Brian Jones (IGNACIO)

Brian Jones is a fifth year senior studying in both Film & Theatre. His recent shows were ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE... VERY BAD DAY, a stage reading of work in progress script called Imbrogio, and SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET. This is his last performance at MTSU and he is very excited to perform one last time on this stage.



# Ava Jordan

**(ENSEMBLE)**

Ava Jordan is a theater major at MTSU and is in her sophomore year. Ava has been involved in theater since high school and is so excited to take the stage in Tucker Theater. Last spring she made her acting debut as Karen (NO GHOSTS), a play featured in MTSU 6x10 and this semester she will be making her directing debut for MTSU 6x10. Ava couldn't be happier that she was able to work with such a wonderful director and incredible cast for ANON(YMOUS), and can't wait for you to see the show!



## Fay Lane

**(Ensemble)**

Fay Lane is a Freshman at MTSU majoring in Theatre. This is her first time being a part of a production at MTSU! She has been a part of theatre productions for almost 6 years. Some past productions include INTO THE WOODS, SEUSSICAL, HONK JR, THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON, and THE SOUND OF MUSIC. This is her very first production since the start of the pandemic, and she is very excited to be back on the stage. She has enjoyed being a part of such a wonderful cast and experience.



# Naomi Laurent

(ZYCLO'S BIRD)

Naomi Laurent (Zyclo's Bird) makes her MTSU theater debut in Anon(ymous). She is a freshman and looks forward to performing in future shows at MTSU.





# Carson Loving

(MR. ZYCLO / ENSEMBLE)

Carson Loving is a junior studying in Video and Film Production. His previous productions include *A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM* and *MTSU 6x10*. Although he's not a theatre major, he's enjoyed the experience, and is excited for to perform in his first college production. He's thankful for all the support from his friends, family, and church home.



# Sydney Maupin

**(ENSEMBLE)**

Sydney Maupin (Ensemble) is a freshman, and this is her first show at MTSU. She is very excited to be a part of such an amazing show with an amazing cast and crew! Sydney would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting and encouraging her! She hopes you enjoy the show!



## Alexis Mosley

(NAJA)

Alexis Mosley is a junior majoring in Biology and minoring in Musical Theatre. Alexis' prior work includes SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET and MTSU'S 6x10. Alexis has "enjoyed growing as an actress, and I'm grateful for the privilege to work with such a talented cast and crew." She would like to thank her professors, family, and friends (old and new) for their support.



# Taye Smith

(PASCAL)

Taye Smith is excited to be making his debut performance with *Anon(ymous)*. Working on this show has made him aware of the similarities between his own life and the titular character, Anon's. While he enjoys theater, onscreen acting is his main career pursuit. Either way, he loves bringing life into each role.



# Bonde Usrey

**(SEWING LADY / ENSEMBLE)**

Bonde Usrey is excited to be making her theatre debut as a part of this production. They are a freshman studying as a Theatre major and Film Studies minor here at MTSU. They hope you enjoy Anon(ymous) and would like to thank all their friends and family for their support.



# Alex White

(MR. YURI / STRYGAL)

Alex White is a Senior here at Middle Tennessee State University, and this will be his first show on the campus' mainstage. Alex has been a working actor in the Tennessee area with many performances under his belt, including Jacob Marley (A CHRISTMAS CAROL), the Earthworm (JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH), and Roy (THE ODD COUPLE). He will be graduating in December with a degree in Theatre.

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# special (thanks)

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# upcoming (productions)

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PRESENTS

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**6X10**

MAR. 24-27, 2022

MTSU THEATRE AND DANCE  
PRESENTS

**FUN**  
**HOME**  
BY LISA KRON

APR. 7-10, 2022

MTSU THEATRE AND DANCE  
PRESENTS

**SPRING**  
**DANCE**  
**CONCERT**

APR. 21-23, 2022