

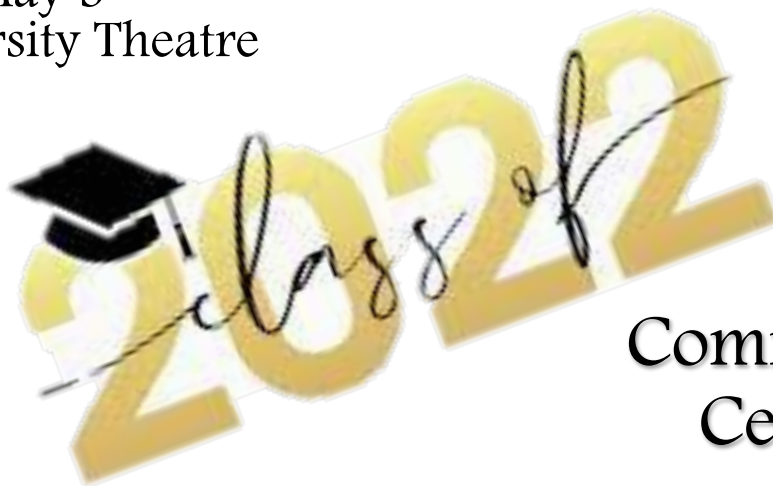


Theatre & Dance

University of Colorado **Boulder**



May 5th
University Theatre



Commencement
Celebration

May 5th, 2022

Congratulations graduates!

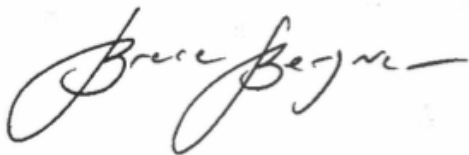
As stated in the Norlin Charge, graduation does not mean that your relationship with the University is severed, rather it is strengthened.

The University is not the campus, not the buildings on the campus, not the faculties, not the students of any one time -- not one of these or all of them. The University consists of all who come into and go forth from her halls, who are touched by her influence and who carry on her spirit. Wherever you go, the University goes with you. Wherever you are at work, there is the University at work.

-- Chancellor George Norlin, 1935

We look forward to all you have to offer the world! Please stay connected and know you always have a home here in Theatre & Dance.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bruce Bergner", followed by a horizontal line.

Bruce Bergner
Department Chair

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Minor in Theatre

Harper Branch – Class of 2021

Taylor Solis-Collazos
Michelle Diller

Minor in Dance

Casey Nicole Caplin
Kyle J. Lawrence

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Matthias Knox Bolon
Casey Nicole Caplin
Hayley Parnell
Emily Ray
Stephanie Talder

Bachelor of Arts in Dance

Jargalmaa Bolormaa
McKenna Foote
Jade Rose McGee
Devon Ostheimer

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre

Celeste Hope Fenton
Rodrigo Gallardo-Antunez
Clara Katherine Hoppe
Kyle J. Lawrence
Sarah Powers
Kinari Rima

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Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

Kaylyn Buehler – Class of 2021

Maya Owens
Madelyn Wible

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance

Xaalan Dolence
Rachel Halmrast
Araya Morris

Master of Arts in Theatre

Kelly Bidstrup Graham
Elise Collins – Class of 2020
Matara Hitchcock – Class of 2021
Benjamin Stasny

Master of Fine Arts in Dance

Brittney Banaei
Christina K. Mitchell
Madison Palffy
Nicole Shindler

Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre

Isabel Smith-Bernstein
Gillian Nogeire

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Brittney Laleh Banaei**Master of Fine Arts in Dance**

Brittney is completing her MFA in dance from CU Boulder with a somatic emphasis. She completed her certification in the Gyrotonic® method during her MFA studies and is a licensed massage therapist. Brittney's research emphasis is cultural and fusion dances derived from the Middle East and North Africa, and her thesis work delved into the expression of bicultural/multicultural identity in the Iranian diaspora through movement and storytelling. To enhance her understanding of the legality of dance in Iran as well as Oriental/Occidental discourse, Brittney also completed an emphasis in International Law. Brittney is excited to continue her time at CU Boulder and has accepted a full-time position at the Renée Crown Wellness Institute.

Matthias Knox Bolon**Bachelor of Arts in Theatre**

Matthias Bolon (he/they) is graduating with a BA in Theatre. While at CU, they performed in several shows, including “She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms” (Chuck Biggs), “Gallathea” (Rafe), and “Julius Caesar” (Metellus Cimber/Titinius/Volumnius/others). He staged managed the debut reading of the original musical “All the Time in the World” by Noah-Michael Carlson for the Sandbox Student Season. They also led a communication workshop that used Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” as a vehicle to discuss consent and boundaries. One of their class papers has been accepted to the ATHE conference and will be presented this July virtually; it will discuss consent and communication using Shakespeare’s works. Matthias was accepted into the Bachelor’s-Accelerated Master’s program in Spring 2021, so he will be returning to CU in the fall to begin his accelerated graduate year.

Jargalmaa (Jess) Bolormaa**Bachelor of Arts in Dance**

Jess is graduating with a BA in Dance and her Undergraduate Hip Hop Studies Certificate. On her journey she has performed with MFA graduates Taylor Madgett, Kshitija Saturdekar, and Constance Harris. She’s had the opportunity to study under Donna Mejia, Gesel Mason, Larry Southall, Rennie Harris, and Victor Quijada. In the midst of the pandemic she was able to crew lighting and sound design for Monica Weller and Meg Madorin’s thesis shows under Iain Court.

Kaylyn Buehler Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre ~ 2021

Kaylyn Buehler graduated December of 2021 with a BFA in musical theatre and a minor in journalism. During her time at CU, she acted in Into the Woods (Cinderella's Mother); Broadway Christmas Carol (Marie); The Laramie Project (Leigh Fondakowski's Tack) earning Kaylyn an Irene Ryan nomination; Loveville High (Swing, Wardrobe Head). From stepping into roles the morning of to working at the costume shop, Kaylyn grew as a performer and person with the help of her peers and professors. She would like to thank everyone who supported her throughout the last 4 years especially Ted Stark and Tamara Meneghini. Kaylyn plans to move to New York this fall to continue her career in acting.

Casey Nicole Caplin Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Casey is graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Theatre and a Minor in Dance. She transferred to from Cornish College of the Arts to CU during her Sophomore year, and has since taken part in Loft and main stage productions both onstage and behind the scenes. She has performed several times in the CU Fringe Festival and The Vagina Monologues, as well as performing in the University's productions of The Long Christmas Ride Home and Next to Normal. Her additional training in makeup at CU also helped her seek out opportunities in the community to work as a makeup artist for several local music festivals during her time at the University.

Brittney Daboll Master of Arts in Theatre ~ 2021

Brittney Daboll received her Master's Degree in Theatre and Performance Studies in December of 2021, completing the Bachelor Accelerated Master's journey she started when she arrived at CU in 2018. While Brittney found an excitement and passion in every class she attended, she ultimately focused on Shakespeare and Performance. As she finalized her degree, she found a passion for sparking conversations across political divides and hopes to someday continue her studies and understanding the role of Shakespeare and Performance Studies in sparking healthy conversations. Brittney would like to take this space to thank her professors and the faculty in the Theatre and Dance Department. She has been struggling with a headache disorder of increasing severity over the last few years, and would not have been able to complete her studies without the patience, flexibility, and understanding shown to her while at CU. Thank YOU!

Xaalan Dolence**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance**

Xaalan Dolence is graduating with her BFA in Dance with a minor in Ethnic studies and a certificate in Hip-hop studies. She is originally from Vancouver, Washington where she started dancing from a young age. Over the last four years, she has pushed herself to understand what dance is to her and how she wants to incorporate it into her life which include training in forms like aerial dance and street dance. While in The Department of Theatre & Dance, she has taken up many roles including: supervising house manager, theatre technician and a member of CU Dance Connection. This summer she will be working at the Colorado Shakespeare Festival as a house manager.

Celeste Hope Fenton**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre**

Celeste is a BFA Design Technology and Management (DTM) student from the San Francisco Bay Area. In the DTM program she has primarily focused on Costume Production and Design. She was the costume designer for Almost, Maine (2019), Airness (2022), and helped make the costumes for almost every other show over her five years at CU. She also worked as the Sound Designer for Popular Mechanicals (2020). Outside the Theatre & Dance department she is also graduating with a BA in History and spent her Fall 2021 semester studying abroad in Brighton, UK. She wants to thank the faculty, her peers, and her family for supporting her through her college experience.

McKenna Foote**Bachelor of Arts in Dance**

McKenna Foote has committed herself to dance from a very young age. In addition to earning a Bachelor of Arts Dance degree, she's had multiple leadership opportunities, such as being a dance officer for two years and a captain for one year on the university's club dance team, Buff Gold Dance Team. She also has had experience as a dance teacher and choreographer for dancers from ages two to twenty years old throughout her college years. She looks forward to becoming a professional dancer, choreographer, and instructor in the near future. She would like to thank her close family and friends for the never-ending motivation and love she has received, since she would not be here today without them.

Rodrigo Gallardo-Antúnez**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre**

Rodrigo Gallardo-Antunez is graduating with a double degree; A BFA in Acting and Advertising. In His time here at CU he has been in a wide range of shows such as, the first ever immersive theatre experience here at CU called the virtue of reality, The Laramie Project, Spring Awakening, Kaidan +, A Soldiers Tale. He also helped co-found a student led organization called SandBox Theatre with a staged reading by of Hilary Bettie' 72 miles to Go.

Rachel Halmrast**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance**

Rachel has found an artistic home within the medium of dance, which they will continue to explore post graduation in New York City. Their research currently lies in the intense power of bodily knowledge, and the ability of the body to both house and cloud our identities.

Clara Katherine Hoppe**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre**

Clara will be graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with emphasis in Stage Management. At CU, she has served as the stage manager for Burning the Old Man, The Liminal Heart, LoveFest, Kaidan+, and most recently, They Promised Her The Moon. She has also worked as the assistant stage manager on Almost, Maine and Spring Awakening. Apart from stage management, Clara has found her passion both in lighting design and with her work in the costume shop.

Kyle J. Lawrence**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre**

Kyle J. Lawrence was born in Cook County Chicago, raised up in Thornton, and fell in love with performing by complete accident. Thanks to a little bitt of peer pressure, he auditioned for The Wedding Singer his freshman year of high school and never looked back. A proud DCPA Education alumnus, Kyle has dedicated his work to a wide variety of genres, from Shakespeare to musical theatre to modern drama and contemporary works. He would like to thank all of his loved ones that have supported him in his journey. Kyle is excited to take the theatre world by storm, and will be seen in the upcoming outdoor season with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival in "Book of Will" and "Two Gentlemen of Verona" as Boy Hamlet and Cosimo respectively.

Jade Rose McGee**Bachelor of Arts in Dance**

Jade is graduating with a BA in Dance, and has spent the past five years at CU pursuing the interdisciplinary arts of Theater and Dance. Focusing on Street Dance, Jade has been a Captain for CU's VerVE Collisionz from 2020-2022, and a member since 2017. Jade would love to extend a massive thank you to; her Mom and Dad for supporting her artistic journey, Sammie Piel for being an amazing best-friend, and most importantly, faculty Nii Armah Sowah, Larry Southall, and Michelle Ellsworth for taking the time to see her as a student and for inspiring her to continue moving.

Christina K. Mitchell**Master of Fine Arts in Dance**

Christina Mitchell is a dance MFA candidate in the Theatre and Dance Department at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her work is rooted in intimate collaborative practices that develop systems of care founded in expressing needs and desires. She uses objects as conduits for connection and ritual making that affirm stated desires/needs. Before attending CU Boulder Christina had the privilege of teaching at El Paso Community College, University of Texas at El Paso, and New Mexico State University. She has also performed with the Mackenzie Rosales Dance Company, Another River Interdisciplinary Ensemble, and Tumbleweed Collective.

Araya Morris**Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance**

Araya is graduating with a BFA in Dance. While at CU, she has performed in various student and faculty dance concerts including her own BFA concert. She received the Talent and Creativity Awards and the Katherine J. Lamont scholarship for various different semesters.

Devon Ostheimer**Bachelor of Arts in Dance**

Originally from Stamford, CT, Devon began her education at CU Boulder in Fall 2017 ~ and is graduating with a BA in Dance as well as a Pre-Physical Therapy certificate, after taking two semesters off between her junior and senior year. While at CU, she continued to grow her love for ballet while also finding an interest in contemporary dance and improvisation. Devon experimented with dance film creation in and outside of her classes and choreographed a solo piece for the 2019 performance of Open Space in the Charlotte York Irey Theater with the mentorship of Erika Randall.

She also danced in multiple student-choreographed pieces that were debuted in the Fresh, Open Space, and Catapult BFA productions in the Irey Theater, as well as non-formal improvisation performances around the University of Colorado Boulder campus. Looking ahead, Devon plans on staying in Colorado to teach ballet and perform with local dance companies. In the future she hopes to attain a DPT degree and work with dancers as a physical therapist.

Maya Owens

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

Maya is graduating with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BA in Psychology. While at CU, she has performed in the productions of Hecuba, Into the Woods, and LoveFest.

Madison Palffy

Master of Fine Arts in Dance

Madison Palffy is a dancer, performance-maker, improviser, and visual artist currently pursuing an MFA in Dance and Choreography at CU Boulder with an emphasis in Somatics and Improvisation. Her work is a continual investigation of risk, failure, disorientation, and multiplicity. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Hampshire College where she studied dance, performance, and queer theory. She has had the pleasure of performing in work by and training with Anya Cloud, Chris Aiken, Angie Hauser, Kathleen Hermesdorf, Paul Matteson, Wendy Woodson, and Lailye Weidman (among others). Her work has been shown at Studio 303 (Montreal), The Iron Factory (Philadelphia), Ponderosa (Germany), The School for Contemporary Dance and Thought (Northampton, MA), GreenSpace (NYC), Mascher Space Co-op (Philadelphia), AS220 (Providence, RI), Rhinoceropropolis (Denver), and throughout New England. Madison is a founding member of LOCULUS, a dance and performance collective that creates performances in non-traditional spaces and produces an experimental dance journal.

Hayley Parnell

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Hayley is graduating with a BA in Theater (Lighting Design concentration) and a minor in Civil Engineering. She was the lighting designer for Kaidan+, two MFA dance concerts, Catapult, and Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind. Outside of design, she has also been a show electrician (Gallathea and They Promised Her the Moon), stage manager (INbalance | IMbalance), dramaturg (Julius Caesar),

Hayley Parnell (cont.)

programmer (Laramie Project), Sandbox lighting representative, and worked in the Scene Shop as an electrician for the past two years. She danced in CU Burlesque in addition to being one of the lighting designers and the production manager.

Sarah Powers

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre

Sarah is graduating with a BFA in Acting, a BA in Sociology, and a minor in Political Science. While at CU, she has acted in many plays both onstage and through zoom-adaptations, as well as many student films. She has written multiple plays that have been produced through the CU New Play Festival. Lastly, she directed a full length devised theatre piece entitled On Display as a part of the very first Sandbox semester, that served as her senior capstone project!

Emily Ray

Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

Emily is a double major in Theatre and History with a minor in Nordic Studies. She has loved working and hanging out in the Costume Shop over the course of her four years at CU. During her time here, Emily discovered a passion for historic textiles and exploring how people made and wore clothing in the past. She is pursuing a masters degree in Medieval Studies at the University of York in England.

Kinari Rima

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre

Gracias a todos que me ayudaron sobrevivir estos últimos años. Los aprecio y los quiero mucho a todos.

Nicole Shindler

Master of Fine Arts in Dance

I am first and foremost a continual learner and student, a dancer and mover, an educator and facilitator of space, an improviser, a collaborator, a performer, a feeler, a human. As a student, guest, and practitioner of multiple dance forms, my current research involves forming, joining, and being in community, as well as calling upon and recreating practices of the past to initiate processes of healing, uplifting, and reciprocity. More specifically, I am interested in how this alchemizes in cyphers, clubs, jams, and block parties. My curiosities center around awakening and activating the inherent worth and knowing of the spirit, through the intelligence and potential of the body. Through these questions in conversation with my love and continued investigation in dance styles such as postmodern,

Nicole Shindler (cont.)

contemporary, floorwork, breaking, house, and locking, my goal is to find shared empowerment, understanding, connection, and authentic expression in practice with others.

Benjamin Stasny

Master of Arts in Theatre

Before attending CU, Ben was living in New York City where he had been working as a professional actor for several years. After graduating with his BFA in Acting from Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2015, Ben immediately landed a job with Disney Cruise Line as the Genie in Aladdin. The years following saw Ben working in regional theatre, touring theatre, Off-Broadway, and in church basements, warehouses, parks, barns and bars across the country. Ben is now thrilled to be researching the intersection of queerness, climate change and theatre. Since starting grad school, Ben has led climate theatre workshops in London, built bird costumes on the side of a mountain, had a book review accepted for publication and co-conceptualized and artistic directed "Climate Cabaret" last fall. Ben is very eager to continue dabbling in directing, gaining experience as a teacher and further his education in the PhD program this fall. Thanks to my parents, brother, family and friends for their loving and endless support.

Madelyn Wible

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre

Madelyn Wible is graduating with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BA in Psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder. During her time at CU, she acted in *She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realms* (Tilly Evans), *Lovefest* (Katrina – Irene Ryan nomination), and most recently, *They Promised Her the Moon* (Jackie Cochran). She also enjoyed her time working in the scene shop and learning more about technical theatre. She would like to thank Jordan Feeler and Tamara Meneghini for helping her acting career and audition, audition, audition!

Congratulations!





Theatre & Dance
University of Colorado **Boulder**