Department of
Theatre
and Performance Studies
great STORIES told here

Watch a play, hum along to the music, and laugh out loud with our improv comedians. In the Department of Theatre & Performance Studies (TPS), we share and create stories that inspire, build community, and transform. Our diverse season of student work includes plays, musicals, spoken word performances, adaptations of classic literature, storytelling, improv comedy, and new works. This year, many of our performances will be streamed live via ArtsKSU Virtual. Normally, the performances are staged in two elegant venues on the Kennesaw campus: the Stillwell Theater, our 315-seat proscenium, and the Onyx Theater, our intimate black box space.

Our program offers students a BA degree with a choice of four concentrations: acting, performance studies, musical theatre, and design/technology. Award-winning faculty engage students in a supportive community that combines academic rigor with artistic excellence.

In addition to creating their own work, our students also have the opportunity to observe and work with a range of accomplished regional, national and international guest artists and scholars. Our celebrated storytelling ensemble, the KSU Tellers, and K.I.S.S., KSU’s hilarious improv troupe, perform frequently around the metro Atlanta area at schools and professional venues like the Atlanta Fringe Festival. Opportunities to study abroad include programs in Montepulciano, Italy, as well as in London, Paris and at the Gaiety School of Acting, Ireland’s National Theatre School.

To learn more, please visit arts.kennesaw.edu/theatre.
Join us for a poetic and athletic play about rock-climbing. Faced with a painful chapter in her life and fighting the inertia of depression, Emm decides to enter the world of competitive rock-climbing. Her quest through the rugged and humorous terrain of physical training and personal relationships charts the journey of a young woman suspended between love and loss, strength and fear, and the ardor and grace of being human.
The 8th Annual Coming-Out Monologues

OCT. 8 | 7:30 p.m.
OCT. 9 | 8 p.m.

Watch live via ArtsKSU Virtual

Directed by Karen Robinson and TPS Students
Co-produced with the KSU LGBTQ Resource Center

Inspiring, celebratory, and thought-provoking, this performance features coming-out stories from KSU and metro area communities performed by KSU students.
Water by the Spoonful

NOV. 3-8 | Tue.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m.

Watch live via ArtsKSU Virtual

By Quiara Alegría Hudes
Directed by Lorraine Rodriguez-Reyes

Heartrending, funny, and ultimately hopeful, this Pulitzer prize-winning play charts multiple paths toward recovery for characters who are haunted by war, drug addiction, and broken families. As the play travels between online and real worlds, we are reminded that human connections and authentic relationships in both worlds rescue us from despair and make us whole.
Coordinated by Emily Kitchens

Our resident improv ensemble offers an evening of performances on the fly. Side-splitting, surprising, and absolutely silly. This event may not be suitable for audiences under the age of 16.

NOV. 13 | 8 p.m.
NOV. 14 | 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Watch live via ArtsKSU Virtual

Coordinated by Emily Kitchens

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The Tellers present their best digital stories, all to be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home.

Beginning DEC. 4

Watch live via ArtsKSU Virtual

The Tellers present their best digital stories, all to be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home.
24-Hour Play Festival

JAN. 23, 2021 | 8 p.m.

Stillwell Theater | $5

Coordinated by Margaret Baldwin and Emily Kitchens

Conception, creation, and performance in less than 24 hours. Guaranteed to be a good time!
Polaroid Stories

**FEB. 16-21**
Tue.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.;
Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m.

**Onyx Theater | $10-12**

By Naomi Iizuka
Directed by Pam Joyce

Please join us for a visceral mash-up of mythic characters from Ovid’s “Metamorphoses” and real-life stories told by young street kids. Irreverent, wonderfully crazy, poignant, and unpredictable, “Polaroid Stories” takes place on the edge of a city where runaways seek camaraderie, refuge, and escape.

*This is a KSU Year of Greece event.*
Created by Sandglass Theater

This action-packed, high energy production by Vermont’s nationally renowned Sandglass Theater looks at the relationship of refugees to their homelands, lost and new, and the conflicts that exist within the countries to which they flee. Using puppets and moving panoramic scrolls, an ensemble of performers, puppeteers, and singers tells refugees’ stories in original four-part choral songs.

Funded in part by the New England Foundation for the Arts’ National Theater Project, with lead funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Theatre for Tomorrow: Family-Friendly Theatre Festival of New Works

April 2-4 and 9-10, 2021
Fri., 8 p.m.
Sat., 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m.
Sun., 3 p.m.

Stillwell and Onyx Theaters | $5-10

Join us for an exciting festival featuring world premiere plays and musicals appropriate for all ages! Over the course of two weekends, TPS will present three theatrical events for Youth and Families. One piece will be Theatre for the Very Young (ages 0-6), another for elementary school-aged Owlets (Grades K-5), and the third for our middle school and high school artists of tomorrow (Grades 6-12). Experience familiar stories told in original and creative ways. Our festival will include additional activities for youth including classes, workshops, games, and more!
K.I.S.S.
(Kennesaw Improv Society, Stupid!)

Spring Improv Showcase

APRIL 16 | 8 p.m.
APRIL 17 | 8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Onyx Theater | FREE

Coordinated by Emily Kitchens

Our resident improv ensemble offers an evening of performances on the fly. Side-splitting, surprising, and absolutely silly. This event may not be suitable for audiences under the age of 16.
Please join us for an evening of original student works highlighting community, identity, and expression.

APRIL 18, 2021 | 7 p.m.

Onyx Theater | FREE
Ex Nihilio: The Cosmogonic Puppet Show

April 21-22, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.

Onyx Theater | $5

Conceived by Jim Davis and TPS Students
Directed by Jim Davis

Who are we? Why are we here? Scientists, philosophers, and theologians have struggled with these questions for millennia, but they have never received definitive answers. Maybe it’s time to look elsewhere. Maybe it’s time to ask...the puppeteers! This world premiere tells the story of everything and answers literally every question you’ve ever had about anything. And it does it with puppets.
10-Minute PlayFest: Serious Triviality

April 24, 2021 | 8 p.m.

Stillwell Theater | $5

Written, directed, designed, and performed by KSU students. Coordinated by Margaret Baldwin and Karen Robinson

Please join us for an evening of original plays that explore the tragic, comic, and downright absurd realities of our times.
KSU Tellers
Spring Showcase

APRIL 29, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.
APRIL 30, 2021 | 8 p.m.

Onyx Theater | $5

Directed by Charles Parrott

The KSU Tellers invite you to join them as they present their best solo performances from the spring semester.
Musical Theatre Showcase

MAY 2, 2021 | 7 p.m.

Stillwell Theater | $5

Co-directed by
Amanda Wansa Morgan
Timothy Ellis

Musical Theatre students will entertain and delight you with snazzy selections from their work throughout the 2020-2021 school year.
Dr. Jayne M. Standley, Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor at Florida State University and the Ella Scoble Opperman Professor of Music with a courtesy appointment in the College of Medicine, will discuss her groundbreaking interdisciplinary evidence-based specialized area of research in music therapy encompassing neurodevelopmental and family care intervention for premature infants.

The rich research projects showcased at the second College of the Arts Faculty Research Colloquium consider the many roles that the arts play in fostering human development and well-being.
Undergraduate Research Forums

SEPT. 2, 2020
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Watch live via ArtsKSU Virtual

MAR. 18, 2021
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Wilson Building 103

Join us for these free, original arts-based research presentations by our undergraduate students.
College of the Arts

Dr. Ivan Pulinkala (Dean)

Prof. Chuck Meacham (Chair, Department of Theatre & Performance Studies)