GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTS

PARABLES

APRIL 8-11 & APRIL 15-17

Directed by
Cristi Miles

Created by
The Ensemble
A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too.”

– Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*

It is through devising that we are invited to practice my favorite way of being in the world. We, the ensemble, called upon our humor, our generosity, our courage, our grace and our deep listening to bring what you see before you tonight. We entered into the creative process with no play, no script. We began with just ourselves, our ideas, and the subject matter/source material. We poked and prodded the material and ourselves, asked our questions of it and each other. The process and the materials began their work on us by unmasking our fears, our insecurities and our deep need for community and connection with each other. Through this process of unveiling, we made this play.

We are asking about the pure language of the world, and how we can open ourselves up to it. Even in the midst of the most difficult of times and with all that life throws at us, how can we continually turn to love, acceptance, grace and peace?

But/and/also, how we can continually turn away …

I am so grateful that you’re here! Thank you so much for joining us on our journey. I sincerely hope you have fun! That you laugh and enjoy the mysteries as they unfold throughout our beautiful campus. I hope that we have helped you to see the campus (and world) anew. And at the very least, I hope that you have been entertained and invited into a more loving relationship with the world.

And to my George Fox theatre family: “Thank you, for you taught me the language of the world.” I will forever be grateful.

– Cristi Miles, Director

SOURCE MATERIALS

*The Alchemist*
A book by Paulo Coelho (Brazil)
“The story of a shepherd boy who dreams of traveling the world in search of a treasure greater than anything ever found. It is an unforgettable story about the essential wisdom of listening to our heart, and above all, seeking a universal language we all understand as we chase our dreams.”
The Little Prince
A book by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (France)
“A pilot stranded in the desert wakes up one morning to see an extraordinary little boy from a different planet standing over him. The pilot begins to draw as the Little Prince tells his story, and thus begins a wise and enchanting fable that teaches us the secret of what is really important in life.”

The Myth of King Midas
A myth of Greek & Roman origin
“King Midas is a myth about the tragedy of greed, and what happens when happiness and contentment are not recognized. Midas wished that everything he touched would turn into gold; he soon realizes that this was not a blessing, but rather a curse.”

The Tale of Narcissus
A myth of Greek & Roman origin
“Narcissus is a cautionary tale of self-obsession. Too enthralled with his own reflection in the river, Narcissus ignores the world around him — even his rejected suitor, Echo — until he gets a little too close to the object of his desire: himself.”

The Parables of the Wolf and the Lamb
Aesop’s Fables
“The Wolf and the Lamb is a commentary on the justification of the oppressor to the oppressed. A wolf attempts to justify wanting to eat a little lamb, and after finding no fault, still decides to not delay its breakfast.”

The Good Samaritan
“The story of an outsider who cares for an insider beaten and robbed by thieves. While the religious elite walk by the beaten person and shirk their religious responsibilities to care for the least of these, the outsider provides the nourishment necessary for the victim to recover.”

Pandora’s Box
A myth of Greek & Roman origin
“A myth about how chaos and disorder entered the world, as well as a cautionary tale that our actions hold unforeseen consequences, Pandora’s curiosity despite Zeus’ warnings leads her to open an ill-fated box containing chaos, illness and death.”
A GEORGE FOX THEATRE PRODUCTION

THE CREATIVE ENSEMBLE

Ellie Barbuto (stage manager), Noah Benson (performer/deviser), Johnathan Billington* (performer/deviser, light designer), Bryan Boyd (lead designer), Emma Boyd (assistant stage manager), Gabrielle Brinkman (performer/deviser, illustrative designer), Elyse Bradford* (performer/deviser), Sawyer Buyagawan (performer/deviser), Anna Coon (performer/deviser), Emelia Corazza (performer/deviser), Lydia Crist* (assistant director, performer/deviser), Marin Donohue (performer/deviser), Jenny Fournier* (performer/deviser, team costume), Janae Graves (performer/deviser), Elizabeth Hartman (musician), Elizabeth Herbert* (performer/deviser, team costume), Emma Johnson* (performer/deviser), Hayley Lamsma (deviser, props designer), Shanon Keehn* (performer/deviser, sound designer), Sophia Komarek (performer/deviser, dramaturg), Gabriel Messing (composer), Cristi Miles (director), Thomas Millage (musician), Luke Peters* (deviser/performer), Allie Schluchter* (performer/deviser, team costume), Abigail Torres (performer/deviser)

PRODUCTION CREW


ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Kathy Harris (performing arts administrative assistant & box office manager), Elyse Bradford* (production assistant), Marley Ross (production assistant)

PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

Nathanael Ankeny (music), Bryan Boyd (theatre), Dwayne Corbin (music), Rhett Luedtke (theatre), Cristi Miles (theatre), Danielle Warner (music), Kenn Willson (music)

*Member of the Alpha Psi Omega, the university’s theatre honor society
ENSEMBLE BIOS

Noah Benson *(deviser, actor)* is a sophomore theatre major. He was the props designer for the fall production of *Silent Sky* and was cast in a second-stage production last spring that was canceled due to COVID-19. He was also a member of the backstage crew for *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder.* Noah is thankful for his family’s love and support, his roommates’ laughter and energy, and the effort, energy and care from Cristi, Bryan and Rhett.

Jonathan Billington* (deviser, actor, lighting designer) is a third-year theatre student and is absolutely thrilled and honored to have the privilege of sharing the theatre department’s devised work *Parables* with you in the time of COVID. He would like to thank Emma, Lydia, Danny, Marley and Luke for their friendship and support, as well as Cristi, Bryan and Rhett for their unwavering encouragement and guidance.

Emma Boyd *(assistant stage manager)* is a first-year theatre major. She helped in the control room for both *A Christmas Carol* and *Silent Sky* earlier this theatre season, and has felt incredibly welcomed and cared for by this amazing group of people. She feels so lucky to be sharing this journey with them!

Elyse Bradford* (deviser, actor) is a senior theatre major with a double concentration in acting/directing and design/technology. Her recent roles include “Henrietta Leavitt” in *Silent Sky* and the character “F” in *Passage.* She has dabbled in design, management and playwriting as well! She thanks George Fox theatre, guided by Cristi Miles, Rhett Luedtke and Bryan Boyd, for their spiritual leadership and educational excellence. Thank you for teaching her how to replace fear with curiosity.

Gabrielle Brinkman *(deviser, actor, illustrative designer)* is a junior theatre and illustration major. She played “Sister Lillian” in *The Shakers of Mount Lebanon Will Hold a Peace Conference This Month* last season and performed as “The Ghost of Christmas Past” in this past winter’s audio drama *A Christmas Carol.* She is very honored to be a part of such an unique and wonderful project as *Parables* and would like to thank her family, her professors Rhett, Crist, and Bryan, and friends for supporting her along this artistic journey she’s ventured.

Sawyer Buyagawan *(deviser, actor)* is a freshman theatre major who had been heavily involved in theatre during his high school years at Seattle Christian School. Last semester, he had the opportunity to be a part of *Life, Together* by Maddie Teel, and he is now excited to be an actor and deviser in *Parables.* Sawyer would like to thank his theatre instructors Tyler Kimmel, Cristi Miles, Rhett Luedtke and Bryan Boyd for helping him to grow so much in the art of theatre, his parents for their constant love and support, and his twin brother Graham Buyagawan for his love and for always having his back.

Anna Coon *(deviser, actor)* is a senior theatre major you may have recently seen as “Margaret” in *Silent Sky,* or in last year’s production of *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder* as “Sibella.” Anna would like to thank her family, friends, Cristi, Rhett and Bryan
for supporting her and making a beautiful learning environment to practice the art of
theatre these past four years. Special thanks to dear friends/housemates Kara and Marin
for all their love, and for putting up with the Zoom rehearsals in the living room.

Emelia Corazza (deviser, actor) is a freshman theatre major. She recently played
“Stephano” in The Tempest last year and is excited to be devising and performing live
theatre again. She would like to thank Cristi, Bryan and Rhett for all of their help and
support, but especially Cristi, who has taught her so much this year, shown so much
love and given her newfound confidence in her acting ability.

Lydia Crist* (deviser, musician, assistant director) is a junior theatre major. She has
previously directed Hakugame, and has acted in The Shakers of Mount Lebanon will Hold a
Peace Conference this Month and A Christmas Carol. She would like to thank her wonderful
family and great friends, Emma, Danny, Johnathan, and Luke for all their love and
continued support. Enjoy the show!

Marin Donohue (deviser, actor) is a freshman theatre and music performance double
major. She recently played “Marvalyn” in Almost, Maine, “Miss Scarlet” in Clue!, and
“Truly Scrumptious” in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. She would like to thank Cristi Miles,
our fearless leader, and the brilliant cast of Parables for this wild and wonderful
experience, as well as her family and friends for their love and support.

Jenny Fournier* (deviser, co-costume designer) is a junior double-concentration theatre
major and history minor. Her recent credits include “Annie” in Silent Sky and props
designer for Passage. She would like to thank Bryan, Cristi and Rhett for helping guide
her through her artistic journey and holding space for her during both growth and
struggle.

Elizabeth Hartman (musician) is a senior music major who has loved singing in the
university choirs, as well as recording and editing audio. She also enjoys performing
and recording her own songs, teaching private lessons, and painting. She would love
to thank her mentors for setting an incredible example, her friends for encouraging
and loving her along the way, and her family for supporting her and being the greatest
humans to walk the Earth.

Elizabeth Herbert* (deviser, actor, co-costume designer) is a junior double major in
organizational communication and theatre. Previously, she has played “The Ghost of
Christmas Present” in A Christmas Carol and “Agnes” in The Shakers of Mount Lebanon will
Hold a Peace Conference This Month. She would like to thank Bryan, Rhett and Cristi for
their guidance, love and direction. In addition, she’d like to thank her sister Lauren; she
doesn’t know what for, but just in general, “thanks.”

Emma Johnson* (deviser, actor, hair & makeup designer) is a junior double major in
history and theatre. She was last in the radio drama A Christmas Carol. She has previously
worked as a crew member for Jane Eyre and The Shakers of Mount Lebanon Will Hold a
Peace Conference This Month, and she house managed for The Government Inspector. She also

*Member of the Alpha Psi Omega, the university’s theatre honor society
designed the hair for *A Gentlemen’s Guide to Love and Murder* and *Silent Sky*. You might have seen her in the second-stage show *The Amish Project* (“Anna”). She would like to say thank you to Lydia, Johnathan and Marley for loving and supporting her. Enjoy!

**Shanon Keehn*** (deviser, actor, sound designer) is a senior double-concentration theatre major. Most recent credits include stage management for *Silent Sky* and voice acting for various characters in George Fox’s radio show *A Christmas Carol*. She is thankful for Bryan, Cristi and Rhett, and all of her friends for all of their love and support throughout these crazy last couple of years.

**Sophia Komarek** (deviser, actor, dramaturg) is a freshman theatre and English major. She was recently involved in staged readings of Skylar Rae’s *Hakugame* and Maddie Teel’s *Life Together*. She would like to thank Cristi for her unwavering belief and guidance; Ellie, Emma and Lydia for their amazing leadership; and the incredible cast who have worked so hard to create something so wonderful.

**Hayley Lamsma** (deviser, props designer) is a junior interdisciplinary studies major studying theatre and writing. This is her first time designing for a show; however, she has held many management positions in previous shows, including *Silent Sky* and *A Gentlemen’s Guide to Love and Murder*. She would like to thank her friends for making sure she drinks water and the theatre department for always encouraging her.

**Gabriel Messing** (deviser, composer) is a junior music composition major. While he has not performed in past shows on campus, he had an active role composing the violin music you hear in *Parables*. His past performances in high school include the role of “Lyle” in the one-act play *The Heirloom*, along with various supporting roles in theatre productions and acting in videos. He would like to thank his family for their unshakable support in his pursuit of the arts, his girlfriend for standing by him when things get tough, and his drill instructors for molding him into a stronger man.

**Cristi Miles** (director) is a performer, director and teacher based in Portland. Her work has taken her across the Pacific Northwest and Northeastern parts of the U.S., and she is currently in her last semester as an assistant professor of theatre at George Fox. Portland credits include: *Weather Room*, *Beckett Women*, *Our Ruined House*, *Deception Unit*, *The Journey Play is the Whole Thing*, *Enter THE NIGHT*, *The Three Sisters*, *Song of the Dodo* and *R3* with PETE; *La Ruta*, with ART; *Kiss, Lungs, Midsummer* (a play with songs) with Third Rail Rep; *A Christmas Carol*, *Mr. Burns: A Post Electric Play*, *Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson* and *Dying City* with Portland Playhouse; and *Elliot, A Soldier’s Fugue* with Profile. She is a founding co-artistic director of PETE, and trained at The Oregon Center for Alexander Technique (AmSAT certified teacher). She earned an MFA from Brandeis University.

**Thomas Millage** (musician) has been acting for seven years and has been playing the violin for over twice as long. His first acting role at George Fox was as “Jacob Marley” and ensemble in last Christmas’ radio play *A Christmas Carol*, and his voice talent was heard earlier this year as the wolf monster “Hakugame” in *Hakugame*. He is excited to
wow you as one of the talented musicians providing tasteful musical accompaniment to this production.

Luke Peters* (deviser, actor) is a junior theatre major who’s excited and thankful to be working on Parables. He’s recently played “Scrooge” in George Fox’s A Christmas Carol, and less recently been “Monty” in A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder. He would like to thank Cristi, Rhett, Bryan and all the cast and crew for making theatre at George Fox not only possible, but such a blessing. He’d love to thank all those supporting theatre here on campus, and all his family watching from a distance!

Allie Schluchter* (deviser, actor, co-costume designer) is a senior double-concentration theatre major with an art minor. This is her third and final main-stage performance and design for the theatre program. She is immensely grateful to have received so much love and support from her friends, family and professors over these past four years. Thank you all!

Abigail Torres (deviser, actor) is a sophomore theatre major. She would like to thank Cristi, Bryan, Rhett and Mitzi for all their love and support, and most importantly her family for encouraging her love of theatre.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

George Fox University Event Services, Plant Services, Campus Public Safety

THEATRE MISSION

To love, inspire and challenge our communities through the power of story.

THEATRE VISION

To celebrate the unique God-given gifts and perspectives each person brings to the world while courageously exploring the tensions within faith, art and culture.

SPECIAL THANK YOU to CRISTI MILES

The students, staff and faculty of the theatre program extend a deep and heartfelt thank you to Professor Cristi Miles, who has served the George Fox University theatre program for the past five years. Cristi is an outstanding acting teacher who demands the best from her students. Her love of God, her passion for excellence, her deep heart for grace, and her vision for a community where all our welcomed has been an inspiration to all of us. Thank you, Cristi! You are, indeed, a beautiful person, and you will be missed!