THE TAMUCC DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE & DANCE
PRESENTS
THE SOUTHWEST PREMIERE OF
JESSICA DICKEY’S
THE CONVENT
DIRECTED BY MEREDITH MELVILLE

WARNING: THE SURGEON GENERAL HAS DETERMINED THAT CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH.
The Convent
by Jessica Dickey

The Cast

Mother Abbess.................................................................Miranda Dean
Jill..................................................................................Kamryn Lewis
Patti...............................................................................Raeann Grigsby
Wilma.............................................................................Gracyn Scholz
Dimlin...........................................................................Mac McIendon
Bertie...........................................................................Lanie Gullett
Tina ................................................................................Grace Beikirch

SETTING
A medieval French convent, present day

“The Convent” is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com
Originally produced Off Broadway by piece by piece productions and Rising Phoenix Productions
COMING SOON

THE 2021 BAILANDO INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL

Oct. 7-9
Centre for the Arts / The PAC
6300 Ocean Drive / 2nd floor
www.occ.bailando.com
Box Office: 361.825.3800 / boxoffice@tamucc.edu
Thursday-Saturday
7:30 p.m.
General Admission: $10/00 / Saturday $20
Tickets available online or at the door
A Note from the Dramaturgs:

This play isn’t really about a convent.

Yes, it’s called The Convent, and it takes place in a medieval French convent, but there are few nuns on view (one, to be precise). It is really a play about how that sacred space provides an opportunity to a variety of women; these women are in need of a retreat from the world. In the words of the Mother Abbess of our play, these characters feel “spiritually bankrupt.” The difficulties they face in their daily lives compel them to set some time aside and go to a place where they can focus on the things that really matter. As the Mother Abbess says, they try to find what is “elemental” and “mysterious,” while getting away from what has disrupted the “connection to yourself.”

Every year thousands of people around the world take part in some sort of retreat, spiritual or otherwise. They choose a distinct time and go to a distinct place in order to leave the everyday behind. Last year, we produced the play Small Mouth Sounds, which is about a group of people on a silent retreat, where words themselves are eliminated as a distraction from the profundity of experience. Even the art installation in the adjoining gallery is called “Sanctuary.” (I highly recommend it.)

As part of The Convent’s rehearsal process, scenic designer Philip Johnson invited the cast to share in his spiritual practice, taking us to his church. There, we engaged with the space and experienced the ancient tradition of labyrinth walking. This physical manifestation of a profound, spiritual journey proved valuable research for the show.

You are now about to see the fruits of our educational, artistic, and highly personal journeys. As you watch the show, think about what it means to enter a sacred space. Theatre itself has been part of the religious rituals of many cultures for millennia. Maybe The Convent is an opportunity for you to get in touch with yourself and, just possibly, something much larger.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Director                    Meredith Melville
Assistant Director        Dusty Merrell
Stage Manager              Jewels Uherek
Assistant Stage Manager    Shelby Clark
Dramaturg                  Thomas A. Oldham
Assistant Dramaturg        Kate Hawkins
Scenic Designer            Philip Johnson
Costume Designer           Adam Nombrano
Lighting Designer          Kevin Loeffler
Assistant Lighting Designer Tatyanna Rodriguez
Sound Designer             Brandon Bankston
Hair & Makeup Designer     Joan Albor
Technical Director         Jordan Bohl
Props Lead                 Rose Epstein
Props Assistant/Run Crew   Hagen Hunt
Wardrobe Run Crew Heads    Nico Montalvo, AnnMarie Tapia
Wardrobe Run Crew          Kat Cunningham, Paulina Orellana
Hair & Makeup Run Crew Head Joan Albor
Hair & Makeup Run Crew     Sarah Eckhoff
Lead Electrician           Tatyanna Rodriguez
Light Board Operator       Jedidiah Barker
Sound Board Operator       Ally Cook

Image Credits

Convent Architecture: Free-Photos via Pixabay
Labyrinth: All Saints’ Episcopal Church
Scenic Design: Philip Johnson
Lighting Design: Kevin Loeffler
Costume Design: Adam Nombrano
Song Book: GalNet from Pixabay
Teresa of Ávila: public domain
Hildegard von Bingen: public domain
Question Mark: Anemone123 from Pixabay
Jessica Dickey: Concord Theatricals
PRODUCTION STAFF (CONTINUED)

Scenic Construction Crew
Kennedy Alexander, Gabriel Almager, Megan Bain, April Bourg, Cy Bryan, Shameka Cobb, Cora Cravey, Christopher Duncan, Megan Ellis, Elijah Galvin, Kevin Garcia, Zoe Grime, Kevin Hammond, Hagen Hunt, Sam Ingram, Luke Jackson, Ericca Mahaffey, Madisen Piontkowski, Devin Ray, Jo-ellen Robertson, Ciera Rollins, Jasmine Satterwhite, Korey Sayre, Autumn Sharp, Joshua Sneed, Nic Trevino, Mason Urias, Ray Villareal, Lucia Yanez

Scenic Charge
Autumn Sharp

Costume Shop Supervisor
Kyle Everett

Stitchers

Marketing / Graphics Designer
Alison Frost

Box Office Faculty Supervisor
Meredith Melville

Box Office Student Supervisor
George Miguel Salcido

Front of House Student Workers
Hannah Anderson, Ashlyn Evans, Luke Leal, Juan (JJay) Madrid, Nate Staggs, Mason Edward

SAMC Event Specialist/Box Office
Wes Jones

Special Thanks
The Convent cast, for their work in the mask-making workshop
The University Health Center, for the tongue depressors
Shelby Clark, for awesomeness in understudying
Designing The Convent

Initial Scenic Design Collage Mock-up:
Philip Johnson

Designing The Convent was a collaborative process between faculty members [Philip Johnson (scenic) and Kevin Loeffler (lighting)] and students [Adam Nombrano (costume), Brandon Bankston (sound), Joan Albor (hair/makeup), Rose Epstein (props) and Tatyanna Rodriguez (assistant lighting)].

Lighting Design Renderings:
Kevin Loeffler
Sound Designer Brandon Bankston was inspired by the script, church architecture, and his grandmother’s book of hymns in his choice of “Trust and Obey” as recurring motif. That particular song (click here for a video) nicely matches the rhythm of the play’s stops and starts with its own rhythm of rise and fall.
Which Holy Woman are You? Take the Quiz!

Are you a Teresa of Ávila or more of a Hildegard von Bingen?

Jessica Dickey’s *The Convent* tells the story of a women’s retreat with a nifty conceit: the participants are each assigned a historical figure to study and emulate. The medieval holy women that these characters identify with are a “Who’s Who” of Christian female mystics: Teresa of Ávila, Catherine of Siena, Clare of Assisi, Julian of Norwich, Hildegard von Bingen, and Mechthild of Magdeburg.

Part of the research that we did was to understand how our characters match their assigned saint. The actors not only delved into the inner lives, personalities, and objectives of their character, but also why the saint they connect with in *The Convent* might speak to that character. Playing matchmaker, the playwright has asked us to consider how figures from the past still speak to us today.

We here on *The Convent* production team thought that a helpful (and playful) analogy to this experience is the [Internet Personality Quiz](https://quiz.tryinteract.com/#/6151fa2ff6ccd4001818f605). We have taken the six holy women referenced in the play and created a quiz that is informed by a great deal of research...but also pretty entertaining. You can take the quiz via this link:

https://quiz.tryinteract.com/#/6151fa2ff6ccd4001818f605

Or use this QR code:

**BE SURE TO SHARE YOUR RESULTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**
COMING SOON

THE BREAKERS IMPROV SHOW

"THE ONE ON OCTOBER 16TH"

FEATURES

THE BREAKERS
IMPROV ENSEMBLE
AT TAMUC

THE 2021 IMPROV SHOW

“THE ONE ON OCTOBER 16TH”

OCT. 16

Center for the Arts / Wilson Theatre
6300 Ocean Drive / 2nd stoplight
https://theatre.tamucc.edu
Box Office: 361.693.5800 / boxoffice@tamucc.edu
General Admission $12
Students/Seniors/Military $10
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Grace Beikirch (Tina)
- Year: Junior
- Home: College Station, TX
- Favorite role: People, Places & Things (Doctor, Therapist, and Mom)

Miranda Dean (Mother Abbess)
- Year: Senior
- Home: San Antonio, TX
- Favorite role: People, Places & Things (Emma)

Raeann Grigsby (Patti)
- Year: Senior
- Home: Weatherford, TX
- Favorite role: The Convent (Patti)

Lanie Gullett (Bertie)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Deer Park, TX
- Favorite role: People, Places & Things (Emma)

Kamryn Lewis (Jill)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Kemp, TX
- Favorite role: Blood at the Root (Asha)

Mac Mclendon (Dimlin)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Lampasas, TX
- Favorite role: The Fundamentals of Baking (Sheila)

Gracyn Scholz (Wilma)
- Year: Senior
- Home: Katy, TX
- Favorite experience: Dead Man’s Cell Phone (Mrs. Gottlieb)

Meredith Melville (Director)
- Assistant Professor
- MFA (University of Memphis)
- Meredith teaches courses in acting and improv. She has studied at the Second City Training Center (SCTC), and performed with Cupid Players, The Alliance, Recapitulation, and was an original member of the SCTC Musical Improv House Ensemble, Infinite Sundaes. At TAMUCC, she has directed The Wolves, One Man Two Guv’Nors, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, and The Book of Will.

Dusty Merrell (Assistant Director)
- Year: Senior
- Home: Sulphur Springs, TX
- Favorite experience: Failure: A Love Story (Director)

Jewels Uherek (Stage Manager)
- Year: Senior
- Home: Austin, TX
- Favorite experience: TAMUCC 40- and 10-minute play festivals (Production Manager)

Shelby Clark (Assistant Stage Manager)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Corpus Christi, TX
- Favorite role: Completeness (Molly)
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Thomas A. Oldham (Dramaturg)
- Assistant Professor of Theatre
- MFA (Columbia University); PhD (Indiana University)
- Tom teaches courses in theatre history, playwriting, script analysis, and dramaturgy. His writing has appeared in a number of publications, and he has dramaturgy credits from professional and educational theatres in Nebraska, Maine, New York, and Indiana.

Kate Hawkins (Assistant Dramaturg)
- Year: Sophomore
- Home: Kaufman, TX
- Favorite role: Bethany (Crystal)

Philip Johnson (Scenic Designer)
- Professor of Theatre
- MFA (Michigan State University)
- Phil teaches courses in Lighting Design, Technical Direction, Drawing, and Rendering. He has enjoyed teaching at TAMUCC for 35 years.

Adam Nombrano (Costume Designer)
- Year: Sophomore
- Home: River Oaks, TX
- Favorite experience: Dance Nation (Co-Costume Designer)

Kevin Loeffler (Lighting Designer)
- Associate Professor
- MFA (University of Iowa)
- Kevin teaches courses in design/collaboration and has worked as Scenic Designer for Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center and TheatreWorks, and as Scenic Artist for Santa Fe Opera, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

Tatyanna Rodriguez (Assistant Lighting Designer / Lead Electrician)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Magnolia, TX
- Favorite experience: Small Mouth Sounds (Scenic Designer)

Brandon Bankston (Sound Designer)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Lewisville, TX
- Favorite experience: Hamlet (Run Crew)

Joan Albor (Hair & Makeup Designer / Run Crew Head)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Kerrville, TX
- Favorite role: Blook at the Root (DA)

Jordan Bohl (Technical Director)
- Departmental Technical Director
- MFA (University of Alabama)
- Jordan has worked professionally in seven different states. Credits include The Importance of Being Earnest (TD), Little Women (Scenic Designer), and The 39 Steps (TD).
WHO’S WHO IN THE CAST & CREW

Rose Epstein (Props Lead)
- Year: Senior
- Home: Corpus Christi, TX
- Favorite experience: A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder (Hair & Makeup Designer)

Hagen Hunt (Props Assistant / Run Crew)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Sulphur Springs, TX
- Favorite role: The Thanksgiving Play (Caden)

Nico Montalvo (Wardrobe Run Crew Head)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Conroe, TX
- Favorite experience: Dance Nation (Assistant Dramaturg)

AnnMarie Tapia (Wardrobe Run Crew Head)
- Year: Junior

Kat Cunningham (Wardrobe Run Crew)
- Year: Sophomore
- Home: Kaufman, TX
- Favorite role: Quake (Lucy)

Paulina Orellana (Wardrobe Run Crew)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Needville, TX
- Favorite role: Ugly Lies the Bone (Jess)

Sarah Eckhoff (Hair/Makeup Run Crew)
- Year: Senior
- Home: Rockport, TX
- Favorite experience: Blood at the Root (Light Board Operator)

Jedidiah Barker (Light Board Operator)
- Year: Junior
- Home: Edgewood, TX
- Favorite role: Bethany (Gary)

Ally Cook (Sound Board Operator)
- Year: Sophomore
- Home: Hillsboro, TX
- Favorite experience: 40-Minute Play Festival (Sound Board Operator)
Jessica Dickey, a native of Pennsylvania, began her research on Amish culture in order to write her play *The Amish Project*, which was praised by audiences and critics alike during its Off-Broadway run at the prestigious Rattlestick Playwrights Theater in New York City. *The Amish Project* is a fictional exploration of the tragic events of the Nickel Mines shooting, when the local milkman walked into an Amish schoolhouse and shot all the girls and then himself. The Amish responded to this crime by forgiving the gunman and embracing his family as fellow victims. Honoring the redemptive aspects of this incredible story, *The Amish Project* is published by Samuel French, continues to be produced all over America and the world, and was listed by nytheatre.com as a play that should have been nominated for the Pulitzer. *The Amish Project* won the CAPPIE Award for Best Play.

Ms. Dickey has since gone on to write two more plays: *Row After Row*, a comedy about Civil War re-enactors; and *Charles Ives Take Me Home*, a poignant play about a father and daughter which was nominated for the prestigious Susan Blackburn Prize. She was also nominated for the PONY Award in 2011. Ms. Dickey is also an actor; her work can be found on both stage and screen.

(Biography and photograph courtesy of Concord Theatricals)

[https://www.concordtheatricals.com/a/246/jessica-dickey](https://www.concordtheatricals.com/a/246/jessica-dickey)
[https://www.jessicadickey.com](https://www.jessicadickey.com)
THE 2021 STUDIO PROJECT: DNA

BY DENNIS KELLY
DIRECTED BY DR. THOMAS A. OLDHAM

FEATURING
GABRIEL ALMAGER
MEGAN BAIN
APRIL BOURG
NINA BRAGER
CY BRYAN
CORA CRAVEY
CHRISTOPHER DUNCAN
ELIJAH GALVIN
ISSAC LOPEZ
MADIBEN PIONTKOWSKI
KOREY SAYRE

THE 2021 STUDIO PROJECT: DNA

OCT. 22-23
Center for the Arts / Wilson Theatre
6500 Ocean Drive / 2nd spotlight
https://theatre.tamucc.edu
Box Office: 361.445.3800 / boxoffice@tamucc.edu
Friday 8:00 p.m. for majors and minors only.
General Admission Friday & Saturday at 7:30 p.m.:
Donations Accepted
Tickets available online or at the door.
COMING SOON

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE’S
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM

DIRECTED BY KELLY RUSSELL
SCENIC DESIGN BY KEVIN LOFFLER
COSTUME DESIGN BY ROSA LAZARO

NOV. 11-14 & 18-20

TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR
FACULTY AND STAFF
Alison Frost, Department Chair of Theatre & Dance
Kevin Loeffler, Director of Theatre
Jilissa Cotten, Director of Dance
Philip Johnson, Professor of Theatre
Rosa M. Lazaro, Professor of Theatre
Kelly Russell, Professor of Theatre
Sarah Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Dance
Meredith Melville, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Marco Muñoz, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Thomas A. Oldham, Assistant Professor of Theatre
J. Don Luna, Professor Emeritus of Theatre
Jordan Bohl, Technical Director
Kyle Everett, Costume Shop Supervisor
George Miguel Salcido, Student Office Assistant
Brandon Bankston, Student Shop Assistant
Adam Nombrano, Student Shop Assistant
Carley Perez, Student Shop Assistant
April Salazar, Student Shop Assistant
Mason Urias, Student Shop Assistant
Monroe Verette, Student Shop Assistant

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Dr. Kelly Miller, President and CEO of TAMUCC
Dr. Clarenda Phillips, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Shawnrece Campbell, Director of SAMC & Dean of College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Diana Sipes, Associate Dean of SAMC
Dr. Susan Wolff Murphy, Associate Dean of College of Liberal Arts
Adrian Rodriguez, Vice President for Student Engagement and Success
The Student Government Association
The Marketing and Communications Department of TAMUCC
Kim Newlin, Videographer

CONTACT US
Website: http://theatre.tamucc.edu

BRIDAL BOUTIQUE AND AFTER FIVE
1308 AIRLINE / 361.906.1444
(Thank you for your support)
2021-2022 Season

FALL SCHEDULE

THE CONVENT
By Jessica Dickey
September 28-October 3
Wilson Theatre
Directed by Meredith Melville
Tues-Sat 7:30 / Sun 2:00

The Bailando International Dance Festival
October 7-9
PAC
7:30 p.m.

The Breakers Improv Show
October 16
Wilson Theatre
7:30 p.m.

DNA
By Dennis Kelly
Oct. 22-23
Wilson Theatre
A Studio Project
directed by Dr. Thomas A. Oldham
7:30 p.m.

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM
By William Shakespeare
November 11-14 & 18-20
Warren Theatre
Directed by Kelly Russell
Thurs-Sat 7:30 p.m. / Sun 2:00 p.m.

The Island Dance Demo
& Choreography Showcase
November 23
Warren Theatre (Tentative)
7:30 p.m.

SPRING SCHEDULE

The Breakers Improv Show
February 12
Wilson Theatre
7:30 p.m.

THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS
By Larry L. King, Peter Masterson & Carol Hall
March 8-12
Directed by Alison Frost
Choreographed by Sarah Gonzalez
Music Directed by Michael Perez
7:30 p.m.

A MONSTER CALLS
Based on the novel by Patrick Ness
Devised by The Company
April 19-24
Directed by Marco Muñoz
Wilson Theatre
Tues-Sat 7:30 p.m. / Sun 2:00 p.m.

The Island Dance Demo
May 4
PAC
7:30 p.m.