Scenes from...

A PLAY ABOUT DAVID MAMET
WRITING A PLAY ABOUT HARVEY WEINSTEIN

Hannah Anderson
Niairia Brager
Mitchell Zillmer
Madisen Piontkowski
April Bourg
Nex Richard
Eddie Edwards

We would never lie to you.
Cast

Madisen Piontkowski..........................FRANCESCA
(an angry playwright / and a mom / white / late-30s to early-40s)

Hannah Anderson..............................FRANCINE
(her alter-ego / the person she wishes she could be / basically, Kate McKinnon / she can do it all / until she can’t / white / younger, slimmer and “hotter” (ew) than FRANCESCA

Niairia Brager.................................ZOE
(/ millennial in the better sense of the word / black)

Mitchell Zillmer...............................DAVID MAMET
(some old white dude)

April Bourg....................................Davey
(just a kid)

Nex Richard....................................Goth
(maybe?)

Eddie Edwards.................................W/ the Hat
(clueless)
A Note from the Director

Theatre has been promoted time and time again as one of the most diverse and inclusive art forms, but that only holds true with certain companies. For centuries, only able-bodied, cisgender, white, heterosexual men have been given the spotlight. While on a global scale there has been a significant shift in this dynamic, the stories told are still framed within these men’s perspectives on the world. It’s inescapable. Straight white men not only dominate the logistics of this country, but the very culture of it. Children’s toys reinforce the gender roles they’ve been assigned; Marvel© movies are dripping in propaganda; state legislators are stripping away the rights of minorities until we’re left bare and shivering in the cold. It’s our daily life, but no one talks about it; the truth is staring us in the face, but maybe it should be yelling for our attention instead.

I will be forever grateful to Mathilde for giving us her voice, and I am honored to have amplified it with this cast & crew.

-Nico
Production Team

Nico Montalvo.............................Director
Cora Daniel.................................Stage Manager
Robbie Wilt.................................Lighting Designer
Ruby Buitron.................................Props Designer
Kate Hawkins...............................Makeup Designer
Paige Woelke...............................Combat Specialist
Eel Moncada.................................Wardrobe Specialist
Mac McClendon............................Light Board Op
Mason Bowling............................Sound Board Op

Special Thanks
Dr. Thomas Oldham, Mathilde Dratwa, Rosa Lazaro, Dr. Alex Shaw, Jordan Bohl, Kevin Loeffler, Alex Mason, Nestor Salamanca, Malorie Mosley

*This script is presented courtesy of the playwright.*
What’s the Beef with Mamet?

A 2-time Pulitzer Grant Recipient, Mathilde Dratwa’s art highlights a feminine perspective on the world around her. She found major success with nonprofits, like Moms in Film, and is currently cowriting an adaptation of Separation Anxiety for TV.

Bitter Wheat. Written by David Mamet as a direct response to the Harvey Weinstein trials, it received terrible reviews for its slack directing and one-sided characters. It was a white man’s thoughts on how the events might have played out, and Dratwa was confused on how a story like this could even be told onstage, let alone thought of. So, she began exploring a story of her own that put appropriate femininity and accountability on the forefront.

By taking the structure of a Mamet play and applying a feminine perspective, Dratwa has done the impossible. She’s brought to light the patriarchal customs of theatre, and the Western framing that dominates our life. Dratwa succeeds in killing Mamet, but gives him space to breathe.
Cast & Crew

Madisen Piontkowski, she/her (FRANCESCA) Madisen Piontkowski is a sophomore at TAMUCC and this is her 8th show here and she is so excited for everyone to enjoy it! Some of her favorite roles have been Erica in Bright Half Life and Lydia in Red Speedo. She has been so grateful to be a part of this cast and would like to thank Nico and Hannah for making the rehearsal a positive, fun, and safe for everyone involved in this process. Being able to learn from them has been a pleasure and can’t wait to see what the future holds for her in the world of theatre!

Hannah Anderson, she/her (FRANCINE) Hannah is over-the-top excited to be bringing Francine to life and to be given the opportunity to make this unique script her Senior Capstone Project! Hannah moved out to Corpus Christi to receive her BA from TAMUCC where she will be graduating this May. You may have seen her this past fall in Romeo and Juliet in the role of Mercutio. She loves playing piano in her free time and reading all the avant-garde plays she can find. She doesn’t know where she’s going but she hopes to see you when she gets there!

Niairia Brager, she/her (ZOE) I’m currently a sophomore here at TAMUCC, and since being here I’ve had the pleasure of being in DNA directed by Dr. Thomas Oldham, Bright Half Life directing by Joan Albor, The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas directed by Alison Frost, the first ever production of The Hector P.
Garcia Project directed by Marco Muñoz, and now this one that you have the pleasure of watching today.

Mitchell Zilmer, they/she (DAVID MAMET) Mitchell is in their fourth year at TAMUCC pursuing a BA in Acting/Directing. They are a non-binary performer who values queer art and has loved the opportunity to take on the role of David Mamet! She would like to give a huge thanks to her friends and family for all of her support and a special shout-out to the House of Elements! They want to give a huge shoutout to this talented cast and crew for all they’ve accomplished!

April Bourg, she/they (Davey) April Bourg is a second-year student who has acted in productions like A Monster Calls and Romeo & Juliet. She is a dancer and has recently choreographed movement/dance for many projects.

Nex Richard, he/they (GOTH) Nex Richard is a freshman who has previously performed in Pronoun and the 10 Minute Play Festival, and is beyond excited to be apart of this years Senior Capstone performances.

Eddie Edwards, he/him (W/ THE HAT) Shows (many): Pronoun (TAMUCC); A Christmas Carol (Harbor Playhouse); Matilda The Musical (Harbor Playhouse); Peter Pan (High School); Frog and Toad The Musical (High School).

Mac McClendon, she/they (LIGHT OP) Hi, I’m Mac McClendon, and I am a senior at TAMUCC. I am an acting/directing with a teacher
certification student, and I have been in *The Convent*, *The Best Little Whorehouse*, and *The Hector P. García Project*. I am working lights for this show, and I am so excited to be apart of this capstone!

Mason Bowling, he/him
(SOUND OP) Hey, I’m Mason Bowling, my pronouns are he/him and I am a sophomore at TAMUCC. I am an acting/directing with a teacher certification student, and I have recently worked in *Romeo and Juliet*, Aristophanes’ *The Birds*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. I am working sound on this production and I am so excited to be working on the project.

Elyzette “Eel” Moncada, they/she
(WARDROBE SPECIALIST) Hi, My name is Elyzette Moncada, but my friends call me Eel! I’m a transferred sophomore from Austin, Texas. I went to Dripping Springs High School, where I designed and painted my two proudest award-winning shows, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Anything Goes*. Then I transferred from Austin Community College to here at TAMUCC to continue my passion for technical theater. I am thankful to my high school theater teachers for supporting my dream of being a scenic and costume designer and to my current professors who have helped me continue this path. I am also so grateful to Nico, who was the one to give me a chance to be a part of this fun production!

Paige Woelke, she/they
(COMBAT SPECIALIST) Paige is a senior within the TAMU-CC theatre department for Acting and Directing, with many Certification ins SAFD fight skills. Recently
she has begun to seriously pursue her Stage Combat passion with working on *Romeo and Juliet* as the Assistant Fight Choreographer, as well as working with fellow students on many of the capstones and ten minutes to ensure her peers are safe and having fun! Paige appreciated the unique challenges this script presented to her and is honored to be a part of such a fun show with such talented people. You can also see her acting as she takes on the role of Pentheus in the Capstone “The Bacchae” directed by Dusty Merrell tomorrow evening.

Kate Hawkins, she/her (MAKEUP DESIGN) Kate is an acting student and was delighted to be asked to work on this production as a makeup designer, as that is a hobby she enjoys!

Ruby Buitron, she/her (PROPS DESIGN) It has been a pleasure working on this show and I can’t wait to see how it all comes together!

Robbie Wilt (LIGHTING DESIGN)

Cora Daniel, she/her (STAGE MANAGER) I am a Design/Tech major with emphasis on costumes, hair, and makeup. this is my third year in the theater department and my very first time stage managing! I costume and makeup designed for our past productions of *Small Mouth Sounds, A Midsummer Nights Dream, A Monster Calls,* and *The Hector P. Garcia Project.* I am thrilled to have Stage Managing under my belt and couldn’t have asked for a better learning experience than this!

Nico Montalvo, they/he/she (DIRECTOR) is a senior at TAMUCC and a member of the
Honors Program. They have been involved in works ranging from musicals (In the Heights), grisly comedies (Fat Men in Skirts), to wholly devised pieces (The Hector P. García Project). He is fascinated with the avant-garde and the way anger can be expressed onstage. Words can’t express how proud they are of this cast and crew.
Coming Up

12/8 – 7pm
*The Payphone Man Chronicles*
*The Bacchae*

March 7-11, 2023
*Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*

March 31 – April 1, 2023
*The Pliant Girls*

April 18-23, 2023
*Life Sucks.*

April 26-27, 2023
The Island Dance Demo: A Joyful Step

May 4-6, 2023
The 40-Minute Play Festival