



# WHAT'S UP WITH U?

## THEATRE IS POSSIBILITIES – DR. JAYME KILBURN

Ah, the theatre! That magical space between real life and fantasy. Between the cold cruel realm of reality and the excitement of infinite possibilities. Theatre inhabits a kind of liminal space where imagination, commitment, and collaboration come together to make the impossible, possible. That's what I love about theatre!

Hi! My name is Jayme, and I am your resident theatre nerd. What I love about teaching theatre at Union is that everything is possible here. Want to put on a fully produced play about Dungeons and Dragons? Great, we'll do it! Want to take a trip to Knoxville to see a professionally produced show? We got you covered. Want to write a play about colorism, stage it, and follow it with a giant all-school cook out complete with a giant dinosaur that spits water? Perfect, we can do it! Anything and everything is possible.

Like most theatres, performances at Union dropped off during the pandemic. Since then, theatre itself has entered a kind of crisis point. Theatres are reckoning with their own institutional issues - racism, sexism, and classism. Some are reevaluating how they can better serve their community, and some are just closing down. Change can be scary but what rises from the ashes is full of possibilities. Imagine a place where you are given the tools to author your own story, where the only commodity



is imagination, and any weird, amazing thing you think of can come to life...

Welcome to Union College Theatre! This year we are celebrating all the things that make theatre so special: community, collaboration, imagination, inclusion, and of course, fun! Over the summer, Barbourville community members and Union students and faculty got together to plan an exciting season aimed at getting our college and community back in the theatre. Our mainstage season kicks off with *An Unspeakable Triumph of Brilliance* by Don Zolidis (November 2-5). *Unspeakable Triumph* follows a rag tag group of theatre makers who try and produce a play (last-minute) for a HUGE cash prize. And of course, everything goes wrong. In the spring, Union College Theatre will be producing its first musical in, well, we don't have exact dates but a VERY LONG TIME. *Disney's High School Musical* (March 21-24) is a show many students have talked about since the idea of a musical was floated last year...and it's happening! The final show of the season will be a New Play Festival, where local playwrights and students are encouraged to submit their 5-15-minute scripts for a fully staged production (April 25-28).

Oh, you want more??? Well, we got you. Everything is possible! This semester, Intro to Acting will be performing *Rehearsal for Murder* on October 13<sup>th</sup> during Union's Homecoming celebration weekend. Intro to Theatre is taking part in a nationwide reading called #Enough: Plays to End Gun Violence (November 6), written by high school students from across the country. Voice & Movement will be staging *Art* by French playwright, Yasmina Reza during finals week (December 5). Still not enough for you? Every other Monday, Union College Theatre is hosting a free community improv workshop for anyone, and everyone interested in learning how to "think on their feet." September 9-10<sup>th</sup>, Union College Theatre, the Justice Leaders, and SGA are taking students on a fieldtrip to Louisville to attend *Pride* and the Actors Theatre of Louisville's production of Kate Hamill's *Dracula: A Feminist Revenge Fantasy*. Finally, Appalshop - a notable arts group from Whitesburg, KY - will be working with Union College Theatre on creating a community-based project this coming year.

What do I love about Union College Theatre? Everything is possible. So don't be shy! Come over to the theatre and make your own possibilities.

