The One Act Festival is proudly presented as a culmination of the work done by the Winter 2021 Fundamentals of Directing class.

Detroit Mercy Theatre Company (DMTC) is a collective of artists composed of students, faculty, staff and professional guest artists producing gritty and relevant theatre that entertains and awakens the imagination. Our mission is to train students to develop their intellectual, ethical and practical skills for a creative future.

With an emphasis on collaborative leadership, students chose their own one acts, cast them, and went through the production and rehearsal steps in order to make a fully realized production. The students showed amazing creativity, resourcefulness and perseverance in mounting these productions while following COVID guidelines, and we applaud their efforts.

One Act Festival Coordinator
Sarah Hawkins Rusk

Technical Director/Video Editing
Alan Devlin

Stage Manager
Sarah Drum

Lighting Design
Seth Amadei

Costume Design
Mary Elizabeth Valesano

DMTC Managing Director
Greg Grobis

Program Design
Tracy Powell
Relationships between women are so complex. Women are raised to be in constant competition with each other, which often comes back to how women are raised to value male validation more than relationships with other women. This makes the road to self-love and fulfillment much more difficult, as we often center these around our relationship to men and competition with women. Internalized misogyny impacts our worldview deeply, in ways we may not even know or recognize. – Director Amelia Rose Glenn
I was drawn to *The Alien at The Denver Airport*, by Sharece M. Sellem because of its themes on self-acceptance. We can have this pressure put on us to be a certain way and it can be stifling, whether it is by society or our own family members. Accepting yourself for who you are can be the most freeing thing one can do … to become an alien and transcend above it all. – Director Elise Panneman
I chose this piece after discussing black comedies and youthful transgressions in my film class. I was inspired after watching *Heathers*, and I was immediately drawn to this play based on the high school theme. The theme of alienation is relevant because of the various mental health challenges youth of our society deal with today. I hope you’ll feel motivated to spread kindness and acceptance after watching our performance!

– Director Kaelyn Johnson
The Swallows is a slice of life piece that is neither a comedy or drama. Simply two individuals living their lives. This piece is being performed with the intention to provide insight to the way of life of individuals who are often overlooked or marginalized. – Director Mason Modzelewski
When first reading this one-act, I was immediately drawn to the stark imbalance of power established from the first interactions between Laura and Patrick. These characters offer an intense dynamic that both directly resembles and contradicts gender stereotypes that have been oppressing women for centuries. Where men have always been the drivers, women are now taking the wheel, and this newfound control over the oppressor may go too far. This piece leaves you wondering whether the new power is actually in the right hands, and whether the old power has ever been in the right hands.

– Director Nina Carlson
I was drawn to *The Adventures of The Real George Washington* because of it’s hilarious absurdity. That said, I chose the piece because as I read the script, I could see the show happening in my mind’s eye, and it made me laugh aloud from start to end. I wish you will be inspired by its whimsical atmosphere. The theme of chaotic determination is relevant due to the nature of how people possess potent urges for their desires, but rarely consider the outcome of their actions; much like, the main character, Hugo, and her eagerness to time travel. I hope that this production brings you joy, and a smile so enormous it hurts.

– Director Preston Cornelius

**CAST & CREW**

**DIRECTED BY**

Preston Cornelius

**HUGO**

Olivia Swad

**GEORGE WASHINGTON / BENEDICT ARNOLD**

Jeremy St. Martin

**THE REAL GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Adam El-Zein
I was drawn to The Barbarian because it is relevant to the politics of current times in our world today. I hope you’ll be inspired by the different ideas presented in this piece about how women are often viewed or represented in our society. I like this piece because it makes viewers reflect on their own views and hopefully challenge them as well.

– Director Taylor LaPorte
I was drawn to this piece because it finds beauty in difference and demonstrates how they add value to our lives. One person's colorful view of the world can inspire others to think and see differently. I wanted to bring the beauty and lighthearted aspect of theatre back into play and give people joy when viewing this piece. – Director Jade Sibert

CAST & CREW

DIRECTED BY
Jade Sibert

CHARLES
Adam El-Zein

MARY
Amelia Rose Glenn
I hope you’ll be inspired by One Day Soon. This is a play to remind those to continue to use your imagination in these difficult times. One day Soon is about the world you can build when the world falls apart. – Director Jeremy St. Martin