

Director's Notes

"Why is it that plays about death always, only, ever wind up trying to tell us about life?", is a line from the play that lingers on me every time we encounter it in rehearsals. It perfectly sums up what this strange and poignant play, *Everybody* by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins, is trying to decipher. *Everybody* is a contemporary adaptation of the medieval morality play, *Everyman*. In the original, Death comes to the character *Everyman* and summons him to God. *Everyman* must account for his life, and how he has lived it. This summoning sets *Everyman* on a journey of examining his life, to try to make sense of how he will account of it to God when he dies. Being a morality play from the fifteenth century; *Everyman* was unashamed in its evangelization to the Christian way of life. Jacobs-Jenkins' adaptation dances between a respectful adaptation, by keeping most of the structure of the original play, and a critique by abandoning the Christian moral and interrogating the idea of "God". And, true to the genre of morality plays, his adaptation is highly theatrical. Unafraid of reminding us that it is in fact just a play, particularly at the moments we begin to think it maybe something else.

It is a delicious and challenging play for actors to sink their teeth into. Our actor focused production, featuring students from the 4th and 3rd year BFA acting program, is light on design support. This allowed us to focus on what I believe is the strongest thing any play has to offer, the text! I love this play because it gives voice to the large expansive ideas that are housed in the intimacies of our minds. It is a play that simply asks everybody to consider how we live our lives and for what purpose. The play pokes at us, teases us, and reflects a mirror back on us, by demanding we examine our humanity and its place in the world. Don't worry, this play is not aiming to evangelize you to a particular religion. But it will ask you to consider our responsibility to the world and all those we share it with.

It has been a pleasure to watch these dedicated students rise to the challenge of this play. I am excited to see how you, the audience, rise to it too.

—Cameron Grant, Director & Adjunct Professor



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Theatre & Film



EVERYBODY

ACTING STUDY

by Branden Jacobs-Jenkins
Directed by Cameron Grant

October 29–November 7, 2026
Dorothy Somerset Studio

theatrefilm.ubc.ca

We acknowledge that the UBC Vancouver campus is situated on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

Run time: 70 minutes (no intermission)

Audience Advisory: Mature themes, including death and dying.

CREATIVE TEAM

Cameron Grant - Director
Haelynn Ryu - Sound Designer
Steve Wang- Asst. Sound Designer/ Operator
Celeste Hebdon-Thomas - Stage Manager
Krista Ellis - Assistant Stage Manager
Leah Liu - Production Assistant

CAST

Sydney Fisher - Everybody/Ensemble
Mae Glerum - Everybody/Ensemble
Oliver Gold - Everybody/Ensemble
Kristianna Lind - Everybody/Ensemble
Victor Malagar - Love
Leonie McDonald - God/Understanding (rotating)
Mars Munnif - Death
Jonathan Preston - Everybody/Ensemble
Elianna Striplen - Girl/Time
Noah Whiting - God/Understanding (rotating)

RUN CREW

Anran Liu, Judy Lee

FACULTY ADVISORS

Mishelle Cutler - Sound Design Advisor
Alana Hawley-Purvis - Voice Coach
Kirsty Johnston - Department Head
Natasha Martina - Movement Coach
Susan Miyagishiima - Stage Management Advisor
Brad Powers - Run Crew Advisor
Tom Scholte - Acting Advisor

UBC THEATRE & FILM STAFF

Borja Brown - Theatre Production Manager
Cam Cronin - Department Administrator
Carlett Decker - Film Production Program Administrator
Kirsten Dougans - Assistant to the Head
Mia Faircloth - Academic Advisor
Jodi Jacyk - Wardrobe Specialist
Tony Koelwyn - Audience Services
Amanda Larder - Props Specialist
Dmitri Lennikov - Films Collections Coordinator
Stuart MacFarlane - Film Production Program Technician
Ryan Murcar - Stage & Lighting Specialist
Linda Pitt - Communications Specialist
Jeremy Vreeken - Stage & Lighting Specialist & Technical Director
Joey Wiles Eagle - Graduate Student Support



Learn more about the cast and creative team on our Instagram @theatreubc