

# **THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE**

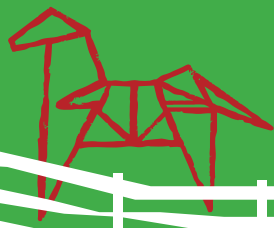
2025-2026 SEASON



# **KENTUCKY**

Written By **Leah Nanako Winkler**

Directed by **Courtney Brown**



  
**KENT  
STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

School of  
Theatre and Dance

"KENTUCKY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC,  
servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))"

# *Ignite* **CREATIVITY**

Four distinguished schools, one internationally recognized museum of fashion and decorative arts, three renowned summer festivals and more.  
Welcome to Kent State University's College of the Arts!

**ART | FASHION | MUSIC | THEATRE AND DANCE**  
Undergraduate | Graduate | Study Away

## **KENT BLOSSOM ART PROGRAMS**

Kent Blossom Art Intensives | Porthouse Theatre |  
Kent Blossom Music Festival

## **KENT STATE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM**

## **ART WITHOUT LIMITS**

A day of Arts Entrepreneurship.  
Join us October 8, 2025.

See the full list of academic programs, concerts, performances and exhibits visit [WWW.KENT.EDU/ARTSCOLLEGE](http://WWW.KENT.EDU/ARTSCOLLEGE)



# KENTUCKY

Written by **Leah Nanako Winkler**

**Sept. 25- Oct. 1, 2025**  
*Wright-Curtis Theatre*

*Run time is approximately 1 hour and 40 minutes with no intermission.*

Directed by  
**Courtney Brown**

Assistant Director  
**Sarah Mickens**

Lighting Designer  
**Andrew Hall**

Sound Designer  
**Scott Carver<sup>^</sup>**

Scenic Designer  
**Kordell Harr**

Properties Manager  
**Tomie Cotterman**

Production Manager  
**Karl Erdmann**

School Director and Producer  
**Tony Hardin**

Costume Designer  
**Sarah D'Anella**

Technical Director  
**Wes Carney**

Production Stage Manager  
**Trynity Jordan**

Music Director  
**Sarah Mickens**

KENTUCKY received its world premiere on April 20, 2016 in a co-production presented by the Ensemble Studio Theatre (William Carden, Artistic Director; Paul A. Slee, Executive Director) /Radio Drama Network, (Melina Brown, President) and Page 73 Productions (Michael Walkup, Producing Artistic Director; Jennifer Lagundino, Managing Director; Liz Jones and Asher Richelli, Founding Directors)

"KENTUCKY is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))"

***Please note this production includes themes of domestic, mental and emotional abuse, alcohol/drug use, overdose, death; use of strong language and sexual language. Recommended for audience members aged 15+. Photography, videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.***

### ***From the director:***

"There is so much to relearn when you come back home." – Kentucky

Whether you are from a small town or a big city, moved around a lot growing up or never had one, we all have some relationship with the idea or place we call "home". For a lot of us, our relationship to home is often very complicated. Kentucky by Leah Nanako Winkler is a story about a young woman returning to a fractured home to rearrange the broken pieces of her life. In this boisterous, big-hearted family drama, where the family is gathered for a wedding, fragility and resilience combine as the characters navigate the challenges of just how hard it can be to demonstrate love for one another. There is humor in the darkness and by play's end, order in the chaos. The characters have learned to stand tall in their own way.

If you are away from home for the first time, going back home, trying to find your home, longing for home, running from home, we hope you recognize yourself somewhere in this beautiful and devastating play.

### ***About the playwright:***

Leah Nanako Winkler is an award-winning playwright and TV Writer from Kamakura, Japan and Lexington Kentucky. Her plays include "God Said This," "Two Mile Hollow," "Kentucky," "Hot Asian Doctor Husband," "Thirty-Six" and "The Brightest Thing in the World" as well as many short plays all produced Off-Broadway and regionally. Accolades and fellowships include Yale Drama Series Prize, Mark O'Donnell Prize from The Actors Fund and Playwrights Horizons, Audible's Emerging Playwrights Fund, Jerome New York Fellow at the Lark, Francesca Primus Prize, a 2020 Steinberg Playwright Award and the 2025 Daryl Roth Creative Spirit Award and 2025 Will Glickman Award. She is published by American Theater Magazine, Nanjing University's Stage and Screen Reviews, Yale University Press, Backstage, Smith and Krauss, Samuel French and Dramatists Play Service. TV credits include A24's "Ramy," where she along with the other writers won a Peabody Award, "Love Life" on HBO MAX, "Schmigadoon!" and "The Summer I Turned Pretty," among others. She is currently a co-executive producer and writer on "Elsbeth." Upcoming works include "Memoirs of Amorous Gentleman" with original music by Duncan Sheik and "Crazy Rich Asians The Musical." (from the playwright's personal website: <https://leahnanako.com/>)

### **Cast of Characters**

Hiro.....	Taylor Patterson
Sophie .....	Olivia Nelson
James.....	Rob Rudavetz
Emily.....	Taiya Forton
Grandma .....	Sammy Clegg
Adam.....	Cole Stellato
Larry.....	Noam Siegel^
Da'Ran .....	Devon Renforth
Ernest.....	De'Ontae Murray
Amy.....	Gannon Hollar
Nicole, Bridesmaid 2 .....	Dahlia Jacobs
Laura, Bridesmaid 1.....	Madelyn Chwojdak
Sylvie, Bridesmaid 3 .....	Stella Maes

# KENTUCKY

## Production Staff

Director .....	Courtney Brown
Music Director/Assistant Director .....	Sarah Mickens
Costume Designer .....	Sarah D'Anella
Lighting Designer .....	Andrew Hall
Scenic Designer .....	Kordell Harr
Sound Designer .....	Scott Carver^
Props Manager .....	Tomie Cotterman^
Technical Director .....	Wes Carney
Technical Director Faculty Advisor .....	Steve Pauna^
Production Stage Manager .....	Trynity Jordan
Assistant Stage Manager .....	Rebecca Rentfrow
Stage Management Faculty Advisor .....	Tom Humes
Assistant Costume Designer .....	Alice Forgét
Assistant Costume Designer/ Wardrobe Supervisor .....	Makaya Arellano
Costume Design Faculty Advisor .....	Michelle Hunt Souza
Costume Technology Faculty Advisor .....	Grace Cochran Keenan
Costume Shop Supervisor .....	Aimee Johnson
Wardrobe Crew .....	Julia Nail, Micah French, Emily Johnson, Mat McLane, Chloe Royak, Bella Seidel, Quinn Kelly
Associate Sound Designer .....	Kylee Dennis
Soundboard Operator .....	Annabelle Dufek
Sound Design Faculty Advisor .....	Jeff Polunas
Head Electrician .....	Colleen Harney
Programmer .....	Casey Kirven
Lightboard Operator .....	Elizabeth Paulett
Lighting Design Faculty Advisor .....	Jakyung C. Seo
Lighting and Sound Supervisor .....	Bethy Winters
Assistant Props Manager .....	Eva Clements^
Properties Supervisor .....	Frankie Teuber
Scenic Paint Charge .....	Roman Hulver
Associate Scenic Designer .....	Jenica Jenick
Scenic Design Faculty Advisor .....	Gennie Neuman-Lambert
Scene Shop Supervisor .....	Jason Gates
Staff Scenic Art and Properties Supervisor .....	Frankie Teuber
School of Theatre and Dance Director and Producer .....	Tony Hardin
Managing Director .....	Rebecca Gates
Production Manager .....	Karl Erdmann
Performing Arts Box Office Manager .....	Alex Swiger
Marketing, Communications and PR Director .....	Jen Crabtree
Marketing and Communication Specialist .....	Madi Getz

## School of Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff

**L. Taylor Ashton**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Leslie Bell**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Tricia Bestic**, Adjunct Theatre Faculty

**Jennifer Black**, Assistant Professor  
of Dance

**Hannah Blake**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Courtney Brown**, Associate Professor  
of Voice and Acting

**Linda Colby**, Business Manager

**Jen Crabtree**, Marketing, Communications  
and Public Relations Director

**Terence Cranendonk**, Adjunct Theatre  
Faculty

**John Eichenlaub**, Adjunct Theatre Faculty

**Ambre Emory-Maier**, Assistant Professor  
of Dance

**Karl Erdmann**, Production Manager

**Paul Floriano**, Adjunct Theatre Faculty

**Amy Fritsche**, Acting Area Coordinator  
and Associate Professor of Acting and  
Musical Theatre

**Rebecca Balogh Gates**,  
Managing Director

**Jason Gates**, Scene Shop Supervisor

**Madi Getz**, Marketing and  
Communication Specialist

**Tony Hardin**, Professor and  
School Director

**Theresa Holland**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Tom Humes**, Associate Lecturer of Stage  
Management

**Paul Hurley**, Associate Professor of  
Acting and Movement

**Natalie Huya**, Theatre Faculty at Kent  
State Ashtabula

**Aimee Johnson**, Costume Shop  
Supervisor

**Caitlin Kane**, Assistant Professor  
of Theatre History

**Grace Keenan**, Associate Professor

**Terri Kent**, Musical Theatre Coordinator  
and Professor of Musical Theatre and  
Acting

**Eric Kildow**, Associate Professor of  
Theatre at Kent State Trumbull

**Jennifer Korecki**, Associate Professor  
of Musical Theatre

**Gennie Neuman Lambert**, Assistant  
Professor of Scenic Design

**Carrie Langguth**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Kyle Lovell**, Academic Advisor

**Matt Marquis**, Manager of  
Information Technology

**Catherine Meredith**, Assistant  
Professor of Dance

**Donna Miller**, Administrative Assistant

**Dylan Moffitt**, Accompanist

**Natasha Musaelyan**, Accompanist

**Mark Nathanson**, Accompanist

**Steve Pauna**, Technical Director and  
Professor of Theatre

**Beverly Petersen-Fitts**, Adjunct  
Dance Faculty

**Dean Diane Petrella**, Dean of the  
College of the Arts



## School of Theatre and Dance Faculty and Staff

**DeAnn Petruschke**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Fabio Polanco**, Professor of Acting and Directing

**Jeffrey Polunas**, Assistant Professor of Sound and Projection Design

**Jeffrey Marc Rockland**, Associate Professor of Dance

**Robert Russell**, Adjunct Theatre Faculty

**Jakyung C. Seo**, Professor of Lighting Design

**Erin S. Smith**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Mark Smith**, Adjunct Dance Faculty

**Michelle Hunt Souza**, Assistant Professor of Costume Design, Graduate Coordinator and Coordinator of B.F.A./M.F.A. Design, Technology and Production

**Alex Swiger**, Performing Arts Box Office Manager

**Jonathan Swoboda**, Associate Professor of Musical Theatre

**Frankie Teuber**, Scenic Art and Properties Supervisor

**Rohn Thomas**, Adjunct Theatre Faculty

**Baz Wenger**, Theatre Faculty at Kent State Trumbull

**Bethy Winters**, Lighting and Sound Supervisor

**Madeline Barber**, Graduate Assistant

**Wesley Carney**, Graduate Assistant

**Sarah D'Anella**, Graduate Assistant

**Alice Forgét**, Graduate Assistant

**Kordell Harr**, Graduate Assistant

**Roman Hulver**, Graduate Assistant

**Jenica Jenick**, Graduate Assistant

**Bridget Klein**, Graduate Assistant

**David McKain**, Graduate Assistant

**Rowan Rexroad**, Graduate Assistant

# EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS GUIDE

Fall 2025



## GALLERIES

**PROBLEM CHILD BY JAMIE WALTERS KESSLER**

AUG. 22 - SEPT. 27 | KSU DOWNTOWN GALLERY

Reception. Aug. 22 at 5 p.m.

**THE ART OF SEEING: REFLECTIONS ON ART THROUGH POETRY**

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SCHOOL OF ART COLLECTION AND GALLERIES & THE WICK POETRY CENTER

AUG. 26 - OCT. 8 | CVA GALLERY

Reception. Aug. 29 at 5 p.m.

**AGGREGATE III: AVALANCHE OF TALENT EXHIBITION**

OCT. 10- NOV. 29 | KSU DOWNTOWN GALLERY

Reception. Oct. 10 at 5 p.m.

**RASHAYLA MARIE BROWN**

THE CURLEE RAVEN HOLTON & RAVEN FINE ART EDITIONS

DISTINGUISHED ART FELLOWSHIP

OCT. 30- NOV. 25 | CVA GALLERY

Reception: Oct. 30, 4-6 p.m. with an artist talk at 6 p.m.



## EVENTS

**FRIDAY LECTURE: SCOTT ANDREW**

PERFORMATIVE BODIES

SEPT. 12, 2025 AT 12 P.M | CVA ROOM 165

**FRIDAY LECTURE: LINDSAY FULLERTON**

SOURCING THE EPHEMERAL CITY AT CHICAGO'S 1933-34 A CENTURY OF PROGRESS WORLD'S FAIR

OCT. 26, 2025 AT 12 P.M | CVA ROOM 165

**FRIDAY LECTURE: DELITA MARTIN**

VISUALIZING THE INVISIBLE

OCT. 10, 2025 AT 12 P.M | CVA ROOM 165

**FRIDAY LECTURE: POPPY DELTA DAWN**

WEAVING TRANSGRESSIONS

NOV. 7, 2025 AT 12 P.M | CVA ROOM 165

**FRIDAY LECTURE: ALLISON K. YOUNG**

THE HARBINGER IS HOME: AMBIVALENCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR PROSPECT NEW ORLEANS'S LOCAL COMMUNITY

NOV. 14, 2025 AT 12 P.M | CVA ROOM 165

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY SALE**

DEC. 5 - 6, 2024 | CVA GALLERY

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



KENT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# CONCERT GUIDE

*Fall 2025*

**Sept. 21 | 6 p.m.**

Orchestra Concert  
Hometown Bank Plaza,  
Downtown Kent ^

**Oct. 9 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Jazz Orchestra with guest  
Bobby Sanabria  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Oct. 12 | 5 p.m.\***

Kent Keyboard Series  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Oct. 14 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Wind Ensemble/Symphony  
Band Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Oct. 17 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Roy Minoff Award Concert  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Oct. 19 | 3 p.m.\***

Kent State Choirs Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Oct. 20 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Jazz Concert with  
Miguel Zenon  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Oct. 23 | 7 p.m.**

No Exit New Music Concert  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Oct. 30 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Percussion Ensemble Concert  
C106, Center for the Performing Arts

**Nov. 6 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Nova Jazz Concert  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Nov. 7 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Wind Ensemble Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Nov. 12 | 6 p.m.**

Concerto Competition Finals  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Nov. 16 | 3 p.m.**

Youth Orchestra Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Nov. 16 | 5 p.m.\***

Kent Keyboard Series  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Nov. 20 | 7:30 p.m.**

Steelband Concert  
C106, Center for the Performing Arts

**Nov. 22 | 7:30 p.m.\***

New Music Ensemble  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Nov. 24 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Jazz Studies Large Ensemble  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Nov. 25 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Jazz Studies Combo Concert  
Ludwig Recital Hall

**Dec. 2 | 7:30 p.m.\***

University Band/  
Symphony Band Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Dec. 4 | 7 p.m.**

Progressive & Vernacular  
Music Methods Performance  
Rathskeller

**Dec. 4 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Gospel Choir Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Dec. 5 | 7:30 p.m.\***

Wind Ensemble Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Dec. 7 | 3 p.m.\***

Kent State Choirs &  
Orchestra Concert  
The University Auditorium,  
Cartwright Hall

**Dec. 14 | 3 p.m.**

Kent State Youth  
Winds Concert  
Ludwig Recital Hall

\* Ticketed event

**Ticketing Information**

Tickets may be purchased in any one of the following ways:  
in-person at the Box Office, over the phone, online or at the  
door, unless otherwise indicated.

**Phone:** 330-672-2787 **Email:** pabo@kent.edu

**GET TICKETS**



# TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH THE *Arts*

Your support for the College of the Arts empowers our students to transform the world and lead as innovators and global changemakers advancing creative and collaborative culture.

**SUPPORT THE COLLEGE  
OF THE ARTS**

**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

College of the Arts

## 2026 FASHION WEEK

SAVE THE DATE | APRIL 20-26

The **Kent State School of Fashion Annual Fashion Show** is the pinnacle of the senior year experience and takes place during our Fashion Week, **April 20-26**. Our fashion students plan and organize this three-day event every April as an opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

Pictured: Best in Show by Caroline Hill,  
B.F.A. Collection 2025



**LEARN ABOUT  
FASHION WEEK**

**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

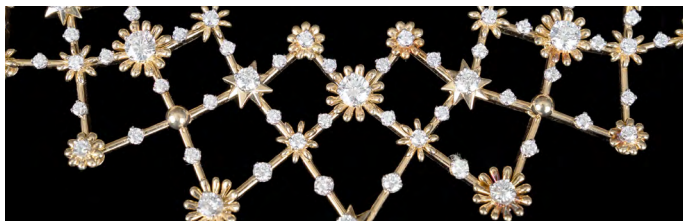
School of Fashion

# KSU MUSEUM

## Museum Hours

**Tuesday - Saturday:**  
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sunday:**  
12 - 4 p.m.



## SPARKLE: THE STYLE AND JEWELRY OF AILEEN MEHLE EXHIBITION

**through August 23, 2026**

In honor of the Kent State University Museum's 40th anniversary, this exhibition pays tribute to Aileen Mehle, a friend of the museum founders and widely syndicated society columnist.

*Sponsored by Linda Harper, Leslie Resnick, and Karen and Ken Conley with a sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council*



## A MEETING OF CULTURES: FASHIONING NORTH AFRICA

**through May 10, 2026**

The exhibition "A Meeting of Cultures: Fashioning North Africa" will be the first of its kind in the world to focus specifically on contemporary fashion designers and influencers in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt.

*Sponsored by Linda Harper, the Louise H. and David S. Ingalls Foundation and by DutchCultureUSA, a program of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States with a sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council*



## LEROY NEIMAN: A KEEN OBSERVER OF STYLE

**October 24, 2025 through June 28, 2026**

Featuring 85 illustrations — many on public view for the first time — the exhibition spans Neiman's work from the 1950s through the 1990s and includes garments from the artist's personal wardrobe.

*Organized in partnership with the LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation with a sustainability grant from the Ohio Arts Council*

## Free admission for students

515 Hilltop Drive  
Kent, Ohio 44242

330-672-3450

[www.kent.edu/museum](http://www.kent.edu/museum)





KENT STATE UNIVERSITY'S COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PRESENTS

# ART WITHOUT LIMITS

## OCT. 8, 2025



**Delita Martin**  
*Art*



**Bobby Sanabria**  
*Music*



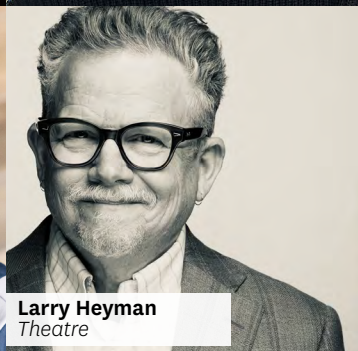
**Aidan Meany**  
*Fashion*



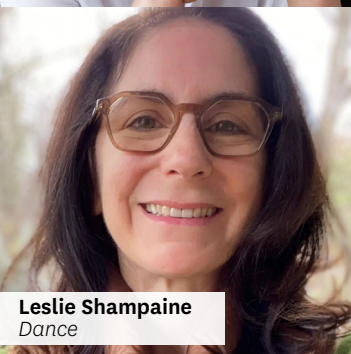
**Susan Rich**  
*VCD*



**Jarryd Huntley**  
*Game Design*



**Larry Heyman**  
*Theatre*



**Leslie Shampaine**  
*Dance*



**Lynette Shy**  
*Marketing/Branding*

This day-long event will focus on arts entrepreneurship and developing an entrepreneurial mindset in the arts.

**Learn More About Art Without Limits 2025**

*In partnership with:*



**College of the Arts**



**John S. and Marlene J. Brinzo  
Center for Entrepreneurship**



# THE SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE

2025-2026 SEASON



By Leah Nanako Winkler

**SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2025**

Wright-Curtis Theatre



RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

**OCT. 24-NOV. 2, 2025**

E. Turner Stump Theatre



**NOV. 21-23, 2025**

E. Turner Stump Theatre



Book by Karey Kirkpatrick & John O'Farrell

Music & Lyrics by Wayne Kirkpatrick & Karey Kirkpatrick

Conceived by Karey Kirkpatrick & Wayne Kirkpatrick

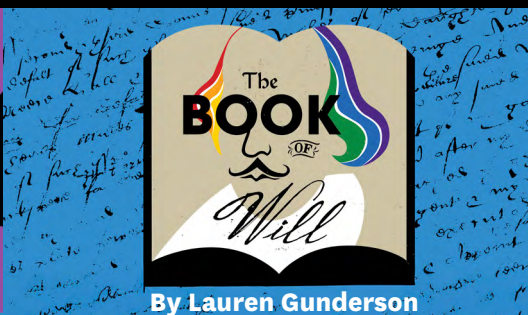
**FEB. 20-MAR. 1, 2026**

E. Turner Stump Theatre



**MAR. 27-28, 2026**

E. Turner Stump Theatre



By Lauren Gunderson

**APRIL 17-26 2026**

Wright-Curtis Theatre

**GET TICKETS**

Phone: 330-672-2787

Email: [pabo@kent.edu](mailto:pabo@kent.edu)

[KENT.EDU/THEATREDANCE](http://KENT.EDU/THEATREDANCE)

**KENT STATE**  
UNIVERSITY

School of  
Theatre and Dance

College of the Arts